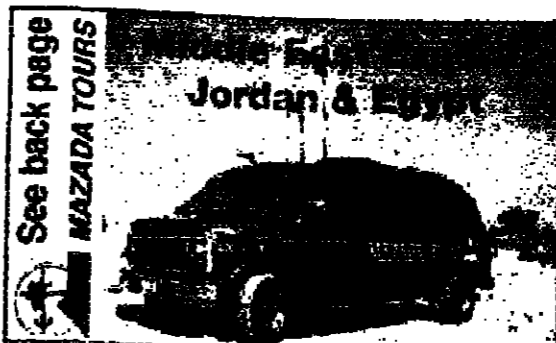


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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1996 • HESHVAN 26, 5757 • 27 JAMAD 2, 1417

Mubarak: Syria ready to listen, but not to talk

BATSHEVA TSUR

SYRIA is prepared to listen to new ideas with regard to the Madrid formula, but it will not come to the negotiating table until there is movement on the Hebron issue, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told Foreign Minister David Levy in Cairo yesterday, according to Foreign Ministry officials.

Levy stressed, despite the continuing differences with the Syrians, that Mubarak's visit was a success. He said that Mubarak passed the message to the Syrian Prime Minister Hafez Assad, who is in Damascus, about the renewal of talks with the Syrians. The atmosphere has calmed down recently, he added.

During his meeting with Levy, Mubarak devoted two hours to "breaking the ice." The meeting turned into a dialogue, which was held in an excellent atmosphere, officials said.

Mubarak said that from his talks with Assad in Damascus, he was able to bring back a message that the situation vis-a-vis Israel is now calm. With regard to a return to the Madrid formula, Mubarak said the Syrians are prepared to listen to new ideas, but not to start talking immediately. According to the Egyptians, if there is progress with the Palestinians on Hebron and if there is an Israeli "gesture," the Syrian track would move forward. Levy reiterated that the Palestinians are holding up the agreement and that Hebron is the key to its several stages. However, he did not ask for Mubarak's intervention with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, the source said.

The Egyptians reiterated their opposition to changing "even one comma" in the Oslo agreements. But Levy pointed out that Israel wants to strengthen some of the clauses with regard to security, to which the Egyptians showed understanding, but not agreement. Levy will head a delegation of five ministers to the Cairo conference that opens on Tuesday. The Egyptians promised him that they will make sure the talks concentrate on economic subjects and (Continued on Page 17)



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak speaks with Foreign Minister David Levy in the Itihadiya presidential palace in Cairo yesterday. The talks were aimed at improving the atmosphere between the two countries. (Reuters)

Christopher announces resignation

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

DECLARING that Warren Christopher had "left the mark of his hand on history," President Bill Clinton yesterday accepted the secretary of state's resignation with "great regret ... but deep gratitude for his service to our administration and to our country."

The announcement came as a surprise to no one, with Christopher having traveled to Little Rock, Arkansas, on Election Day to notify Clinton of his intention to leave. Additional departures of cabinet members are expected to be announced in the coming days as the administration undertakes a rapid transition into its second and final term.

"Being secretary of state is to take part in history's relay race. It's been a great privilege for me to have an opportunity to run this challenging leg over the last four years," Christopher said, with Clinton and Vice President Al Gore at his side. "I've done so with the sure sense that we've begun to shape American foreign policy for the 21st century."

Clinton told reporters and leading administration officials gathered at the White House yesterday that he had not yet selected a successor and would answer further questions at a press conference today.

US special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross, a close adviser to Christopher, was among those in attendance.

Clinton also said that Christopher and national security officials would have input into selecting a new secretary of state, and hinted that he would consider a Republican for the post. He said

Christopher would stay on until a successor is found.

Christopher had tendered his resignation two years ago, but Clinton refused to accept it.

Christopher's greatest legacy may be in having patiently and persistently pursued an Israeli-Syrian agreement and peace in Bosnia, but those areas also represent his greatest frustrations.

While a Bosnian peace agreement was eventually secured last year, the leading administration force behind the deal was Richard Holbrooke, who has since left the State Department and is now rumored to be a prime candidate to succeed Christopher.

And despite Christopher's 35 trips to Israel and 24 to Syria in his four years in office (by CNN's count), the two sides have not negotiated directly in over eight months.

Clinton, who has long admired the now-71-year-old Christopher, calling him "America's elder statesman," saluted the secretary of state's persistence in producing the Dayton agreement.

"The force of his will finally convinced the Balkan leaders to give in to the logic of peace," he said.

"Today, if the children of the Middle East can imagine a future of cooperation, not conflict; if Bosnia's killing fields are once again playing fields; if the people of Haiti now live in democracy instead of under dictators, in no small measure it is because of Warren Christopher. The cause of peace and freedom and decency have never had a more tireless or

(Continued on Page 17)

Small bomb explodes outside eastern Jerusalem Interior Ministry office

BILL HUTMAN

A SMALL bomb exploded at the crowded entrance of the Interior Ministry's eastern Jerusalem bureau yesterday morning, injuring five people very lightly. It was the second bombing at the site this year.

"We are investigating all avenues, including whether the bombing was criminally motivated or carried out by Jewish or Palestinian extremists," Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said.

Dozens of Palestinians were waiting in line outside the Nablus Road bureau just before 8 a.m. when the bomb exploded. Five people complaining of sharp ringing in their ears were

taken by ambulance to Bikur Holim Hospital, a Magen David Adom spokesman said.

The building's door was slightly damaged in the explosion, but there was no other damage.

The bomb was apparently hidden inside a soft drink can that had been placed just above the bureau's entrance, sources said. A witness, who would only identify himself as Rayid, said he had been waiting in the line outside the bureau since early in the morning.

"Just before the explosion we saw someone with a kippa, who was real suspicious looking,

run off really quickly," Rayid said.

After the explosion, "everyone started screaming and yelling. It was total havoc," he said.

Dozens of policemen, under the command of Jerusalem deputy police chief Mickey Levy, rushed to the scene and closed the area in front of the bureau. Sappers searched the area but found no other bombs. Police made no arrests.

Interior Minister Eli Suissa came to the scene, where a small pipe bomb exploded earlier this year, causing no injuries. Police have yet to arrest suspects and still have no concrete leads in the earlier bombing, according to police sources.

Top rating expected for Kopatch skit tonight

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

STAND-UP comedian Gil Kopatch is expected to be rewarded tonight by viewer ratings of heavenly proportions when he presents his "weekly Torah portion" on Channel 1 TV's variety show.

Kopatch's controversial comedy segment was at the center of a political storm this week, when the haredi and religious parties demanded that it be taken off the air, claiming that it mocks and ridicules "all the holy values of Judaism."

Tonight's weekly portion, "The life of Sarah," focuses on Hebron and the Machpela cave. The producers refused to divulge any details prior to the broadcast, but show host Yair Lapid noted, "in my opening dialogue I assure the viewers that I did not pay Shas MK Shlomo Benizri anything for

the superb public relations services he gave us."

Benizri spearheaded the haredi campaign against Kopatch's segment, threatening to use Shas's political clout to cut funding to the Israel Broadcasting Authority and even cause a coalition crisis unless the show is canceled.

Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avidgor Lieberman, who was urged by the haredi and religious parties to "take care" of IBA, said he will wait for the decision of the IBA executive committee, due next week, before taking action. Lieberman met IBA director Mordechai Kirschenbaum this week to convey the offended parties' feelings about the show. (Continued on Page 17)

Report: Jihad planned attack on Shalom Tower

RAINE MARCUS

ISLAMIC Jihad planned a specific attack on the Shalom Tower shopping and business center and office building, situated in the heart of Tel Aviv's commercial area, according to a news broadcast on the US's Fox TV network yesterday.

The attack was foiled after US intelligence bodies directly intervened, asking Syrian President Hafez Assad to put a stop to the attack, according to the program. Preliminary intelligence information was forwarded to the US by Israel.

According to the broadcast, Islamic Jihad planned a car-bombing. Earlier this week, Tel Aviv police announced that construction work in the Shalom Tower area on Rehov Herzl would restrict the entry of vehicles into the street, and that drivers should use alternate routes. Massive forces of police patrolled the area, and visitors to the building were thoroughly searched, as were visitors to other shopping malls in the city.

The Fox TV report could not be confirmed yesterday.

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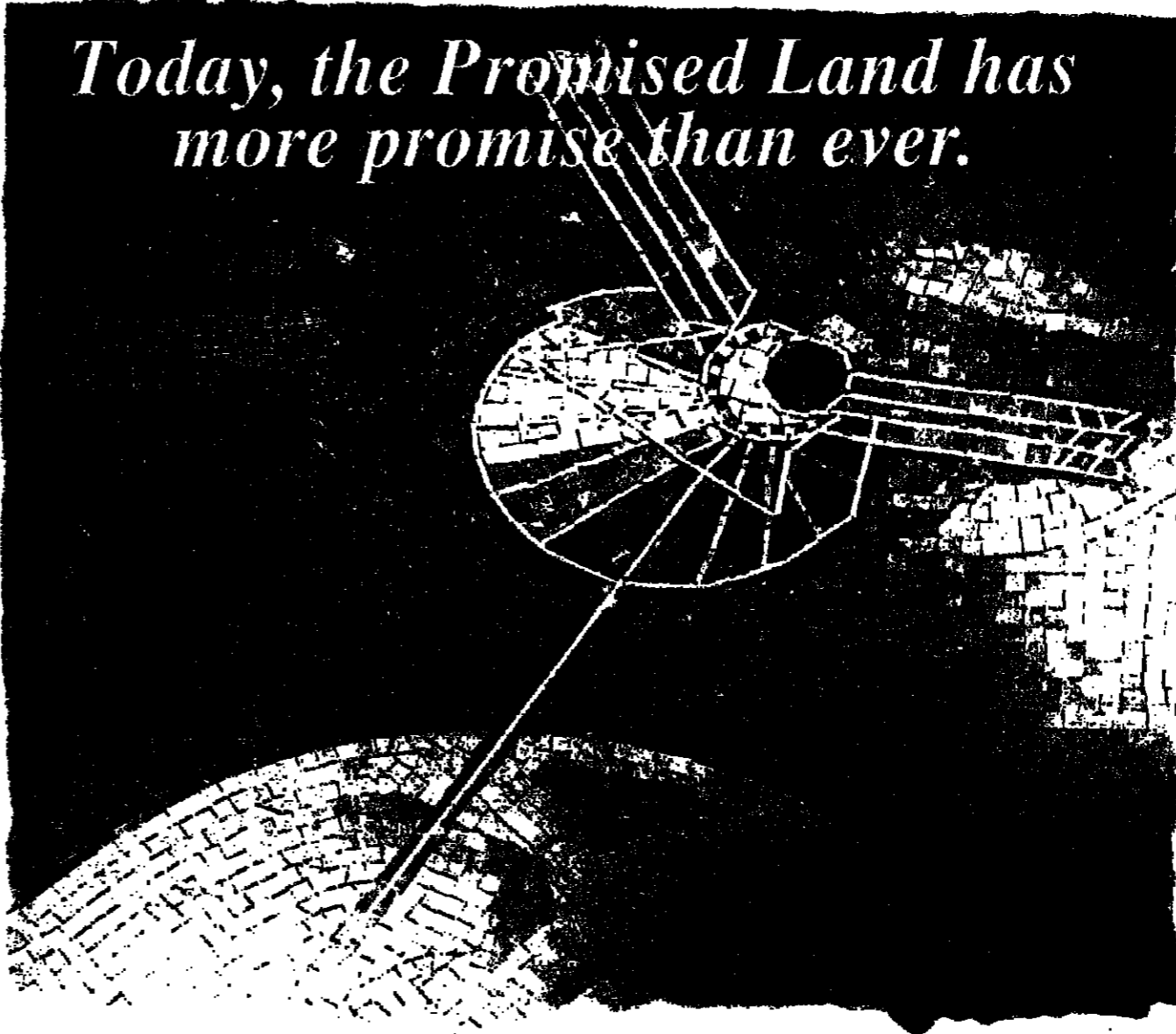
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Settlers believe they will be 'compensated' for Hebron deal

HERB KEINON

SETTLEMENT leaders left separate meetings with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday with the impression that they would be "compensated" for the redeployment in Hebron with development in other settlements.

One settlement official said he was told that many settlement issues "will be solved" once the Hebron redeployment takes place. The heads of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza met with Netanyahu in the morning and Mordechai in the evening. The atmosphere in the talks was described as good by the settlement leaders.

The settlement leaders emerged from the meeting with Netanyahu unwilling to say what, if anything, was agreed upon.

The settlement leaders said they have put off, at least temporarily, planned protest actions against the prime minister to give him a chance to carry out pre-election plans to expand the settlements. A sit-in in front of the Prime Minister's Office was scheduled to begin on Wednesday.

A delegation of Hebron settlers also met with Mordechai, and one of the participants - who said that the discussion centered on security exchanges - said that there were some angry exchanges.

Peace Now called on the government to reveal details of agreements it said are being worked out between Netanyahu and settler leaders. Peace Now spokesman Alon Arnon said the group is



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, right, meets with the heads of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza yesterday in Tel Aviv.

"astonished that plans being worked out are kept a secret. It is only right that the public know that hundreds of millions of shekels from the state budget will be spent" on development in the settlements.

Settlement leaders would not confirm any plans.

Elkana Local Council head Nissim Sloniensky said that general "guidelines" were agreed upon with Netanyahu, but that he didn't want to reveal anything until they are implemented. He said he didn't

want to talk about plans because there has "been a huge gap" between talk and implementation. Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel, deputy chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, said that Netanyahu assured them that his position on expanding settlements has not changed.

Kashriel said that periodic meetings with the prime minister have been agreed upon, and that he would personally ensure that the decisions regarding settlements

are being carried out.

Kashriel said that Mordechai, whom the council has accused of holding up development plans in the territories, said he will carry out government policy regarding settlements.

Most of the meeting with Mordechai was spent discussing security issues in the settlements and on the roads in the territories, not on development, Kashriel said. In a related development, two Jews were arrested for praying in an area not open to prayers at the

Shalom al Yisrael Yeshiva in Jericho.

Boaz Goldenberg, spokesman for the Samaria and Judea Police District, said that eight Jews went into the area where there is a large mosaic, and which is currently off limits for Jewish prayer.

Palestinian Police asked them to leave, and when they refused, they called the District Coordinating Office. Police and IDF troops came to the scene, and all but two of the eight left on their own. The other two were arrested.

Jordanian general: Let's start talks on nuclear control

STEVE RODAN

A SENIOR Jordanian military official called on Israel yesterday to break a two-year-old logjam in Middle East arms control negotiations by agreeing to discuss nuclear disarmament.

Maj. Gen. Marwan Bakhat Nader, a member of the Jordanian general staff and vice president for military affairs at the University of Muftah in Amman, said Israel cannot achieve security in the region by refusing to discuss what the Arabs regard as the chief threat in the region: Israel's purported nuclear arsenal.

"The Arabs perceive that Israel's refusal to sign the NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] now or at any time is an attempt to maintain their strength over the Arab states," Nader told a conference on "War in a Changing World," held at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.

"From the outset, Jordan has drawn a distinction between peace and security," Nader added. "Peace can be obtained contractually. Security must be earned." Nader, the highest-ranking military officer in the Jordanian delegation to the multilateral arms control talks, said Egypt has led the Arab position in pressing for Israel to discuss nuclear issues. The result has been a suspension of the arms control talks, called ACRES, since 1994.

The general said Jordan supports the Egyptian position but wants the arms control talks to continue despite Arab differences with Israel.

Israel, which has pledged to observe the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty on nuclear weapons, has said it will not discuss nuclear issues until all the states in the region, including Iran and Iraq, sign peace treaties. Last year, then-prime minister Shimon Peres said Israel would agree to start nuclear disarmament talks two years after the conclusion of comprehensive peace.

But Nader dismissed the notion of waiting for that to take place. "We don't need to spend so much time to decide whether the peripheral states [Iraq, Iran] are so relevant," he said. "The interest here is to move forward."

Nader said he understands Israel's objection to a discussion of nuclear issues. Israel's concern, he said, is that its purported nuclear arsenal deters Arab attack. That approach, Nader said, might be outdated. "Israel's threat assessment hasn't changed since 1948," he said. "Their view is that the Arabs want to talk of NPT first in an attempt to take away Israel's deterrence."

Levy rejects Shabbat taxi service in Jerusalem

TRANSPORTATION Minister Yitzhak Levy told the High Court yesterday that he accepts the Zameret Committee's recommendation that Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan be closed during prayer time on Sabbaths and holidays. However, he rejected the recommendation that shared (*sherut*) taxis operate in the city on Shabbat.

The committee had linked closing the street during prayer time with the provision of "transportation arrangements" for the city's secular residents. A majority of the committee interpreted this to mean *sherut* service on Shabbat.

Levy rejected this, saying: "It would be a violation of the status quo."

He informed the court that instead, Sderot Golda Meir, the entrance to the city and Jaffa Road would remain open on Sabbaths and holidays.

He then asked the court to cancel its restraining order against the closure of Bar-Ilan. (Tim)

Arab leaders protest tunnel visit by N. Jersey governor

WEST WINDSOR, New Jersey (AP) - Despite protests by Arab-American groups, Gov. Christie Whitman said yesterday she has not changed her plan to visit the controversial Western Wall Tunnel in Jerusalem during her visit to Israel.

Whitman was scheduled to leave yesterday evening for a 10-day trade mission to Israel and France that includes visits with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Labor Party leader Shimon Peres.

Morad Abu-Sabe, president of the Arab-American League of Voters of New Jersey, said at a news conference with other Arab leaders that Whitman should not go to the tunnel and avoid visiting the Golan Heights.

Abu-Sabe said if media coverage of Arab and Moslem issues were thorough, Whitman would never

dare visit the tunnel because of the criticism she would face.

Whitman yesterday reiterated she still intends to make an informal tourist visit to the tunnel. "The tunnel visit has never been part of the official visit at all. I am leading an economic trade mission to Israel," Whitman said. "I am going to see a number of sites and meet with the mayor of Jerusalem. That's the official part of the trip. As a side visit personally I am considering visiting the tunnel."

"It's in no way a symbol," Whitman said. Whitman also said the trip was not meant to court Jewish votes for next year's gubernatorial election. Whitman said Israel is New Jersey's fifth largest trading partner and Israeli-owned businesses employ more than 10,000 people in New Jersey.

Amir admirer released on bail

HERB KEINON

KIRYAT Arba resident Aryeh Bar-Yosef, charged with sedition and incitement to violence for praising Yigal Amir, was released from detention yesterday.

Jerusalem Magistrate's Court Judge David Frankel released Bar-Yosef on bail, and restricted his movement to a moshav in the Negev where he has family members. He has also been forbidden from talking to the press.

Bar-Yosef was filmed by a Channel 1 news crew last week saying that he was happy that

Rabin was assassinated and that Amir is "a national hero."

These quotes were edited out of the station's weekly Friday night news program, but the police, after seeing what was aired, asked to see the uncensored version and arrested Bar-Yosef.

The police had asked the judge to remand Bar-Yosef until the end of the legal proceedings against him.

Bar-Yosef's lawyer, Naftali

Weizberger, said the reason the judge gave for releasing Bar-Yosef was to do with the initiative for the interview coming from Channel 1 and the fact that Bar-Yosef's harshest expressions were not aired. The judge also accepted Weizberger's argument that holding Bar-Yosef would be tantamount to treating the extreme Right different than the extreme Left, since an extreme left-wing activist was released last year on bail even though he had threatened a number of judges.

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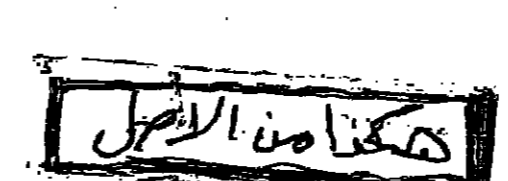
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Pirate radio may be interfering with MDA communications

JUDY SIEGEL

COMMUNICATIONS Ministry inspectors have located a pirate radio station in Hod Hasharon, operated by a teenager, that has disrupted communications at Magen David Adom's Jerusalem branch and among its ambulances. The police have been informed of his identity.

Branch director Avraham Halbersberg said that for a week, loud music had been sounding over its 101 emergency number and in radio communications with its ambulance fleet. "It began at around 1 p.m. and stopped at 2 a.m. every day," Halbersberg said.

The songs were mostly in English, but the disk jockey was speaking in Hebrew. Since the music was heard on Shabbat as well, Halbersberg said, it was obviously not one of the religious pirate radio stations that have been broadcasting on and off to the area.

"Our staff had to shout over and over to get details from callers to the 101 emergency line, and the same disruptions interfered with our connections to ambulance drivers." The MDA branch complained the Motorola, which supplied its radio receiving devices. According to the ministry officials, however, they were informed of the problem by journalists.

Earlier this year, a pirate station in the Lod area caused such disruption in communications between jets and Ben-Gurion Airport's air traffic equipment that all flights were canceled for part of a day.



Pupils display an album of letters written by Jewish and Arab Israeli children to be presented to King Hussein next week in honor of his birthday.

Hadassah Medical Organization appoints board

JUDY SIEGEL

A BOARD of directors has been named for the Hadassah Medical Organization, which operates the two Hadassah-University Hospitals in Jerusalem.

Among the Israeli members are well-known figures from the business, government, academic and industry sectors, while the American members are businessmen, medical administrators and senior physicians. Marlene Post, the national president of the Hadassah Women's Zionist Organization of America (HWZOA), is also a member, along with other Hadassah colleagues. The Israeli board members are Aharon Fogel,

chairman of Embo Energy Ltd.; David Koltiz, chairman and CEO of the Elul Group; Yossi Nitzani, director-general of Capital Markets Models; Dan Propper, president of the Israel Manufacturers Association; Victor Medina, managing-director of United Mizrahi Bank; Tamar Ben-David, director of the Government Companies Authority; and Prof. Gabriella Lev of the Hebrew University Law Faculty.

"HWZOA's decision to set up a board of directors is a bold and timely move that regards a large hospital as a business that has to be managed, among other things, according to economic principles," Fogel said.

HMO Director-General Prof. Shmuel Penchas said, "Hadassah's medical centers have an annual budget of over NIS 1 billion. Management of an organization of such size requires a board of directors. Such a body is unique in Israel, and we are pleased that our mother organization took this important and unavoidable decision, which will, in the end, bring a blessing to all those who deal in public medicine."

Olmert indicted in Tel Aviv District Court

RAINE MARCUS

AN indictment was issued yesterday in Tel Aviv District Court against Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert following a High Court decision rejecting his appeal not to charge him on fraud offenses pertaining to the 1988 Knesset elections.

Olmert will be tried in Tel Aviv District Court rather than in Jerusalem to avoid any conflicts of interest or unpleasantness likely to arise due to his position in Jerusalem.

Olmert has been indicted on charges of fraud, forgery, breach of trust and other counts arising from the 1988 elections when he was treasurer of the Likud party and was responsible for obtaining donations from businessmen, companies and other bodies to finance the party's election campaign.

It is not yet known whether Olmert will suspend himself until the end of proceedings against him, but sources said this is doubtful. Olmert has been charged with fraudulently issuing false invoices, fraud, breach of trust and deliberately issuing to State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat false declarations regarding donations. Others involved in the case were convicted and sentenced recently.

The indictment read that Olmert,

in his capacity as treasurer, opened a fictitious advertising agency, B.M.Y., and a non-profit organization, Nitzachon Le Likud, solely for the purpose of listing donations as advertising and consultation fees in order to issue false invoices to donors. According to the law of political party financing, it is forbidden to receive donations from organizations here or abroad. According to the charge sheet, Olmert used the advertising agency to disguise the fact that monies to finance the Likud's campaign donated by such organizations were processed illegally via B.M.Y., and false invoices were issued, stating that sums were paid for advertising fees.

Olmert is also accused of declaring to Ben-Porat that donations to the Likud amounted to around NIS 250,000, when in fact sums processed through B.M.Y. amounted to nearly NIS 1 million. As a result, following Ben-Porat's report to the Knesset, the Likud received an election campaign budget of over NIS 2 million from the government. According to the indictment, Olmert therefore misled Ben-Porat, the Knesset and the public.

The District Attorney has listed some 100 prosecution witnesses who will be summoned to testify against Olmert.

Histadrut to step up sanctions in Haifa Chemicals dispute

DAVID RUDGE

THE Histadrut intends to intensify sanctions against Haifa Chemicals in the fight over a new collective labor agreement for the firm's 500 workers.

A solidarity meeting of works committee representatives from petrochemical companies and leading trade union officials was held at the Histadrut's Haifa branch yesterday.

It was agreed that sanctions would also be imposed on the Haifa Chemicals plant in the south, which has not been affected by the strike at the firm's factory in the Haifa Bay area.

Production at the bayside factory has been at a standstill for over a week after management shut all manufacturing units because of ongoing employee sanctions, and sent home 350 of the workers.

Since then, the Histadrut has called a general strike of the plant and all work there has stopped. The shutdown and the disruptions which preceded it have already cost the firm around \$5 million in lost production.

The dispute centers on management's announcement in September of its intention to annul the existing labor accord, which expires at the end of December, in order to institute sweeping changes.

These include cutting the work force by over 100 people and other efficiency measures aimed at enabling the firm to compete profitably on overseas markets.

The workers and the Histadrut, however, maintain that management is trying to break the collective agreement and introduce individual contracts.

Baruch Zaltz, head of the Histadrut's Haifa branch, yesterday called on Chairman Amir Peretz to declare a nationwide labor dispute over the trend among companies to unilaterally annul collective agreements.

He said it had also been agreed at yesterday's meeting that workers in the oil and petrochemical industries would support the Haifa Chemicals workers in every way possible.

Wiesenthal Center wants independent probe on Paris flats

PARIS (Reuter) - The Simon Wiesenthal Center yesterday urged the mayor of Paris to order an independent probe into charges that city-owned property had been seized from Jews during the World War II occupation of France.

City Council froze sales of municipal flats last month, and Mayor Jean Tiberi ordered an inquiry to determine whether some of the dwellings had been taken from Jews deported to concentration camps or fleeing persecution.

Shimon Samuels, European director of the Wiesenthal Center, said in a statement that he had asked Tiberi in a letter for an independent probe because of "the limited purview of the Paris municipality's announced investigation into charges of properties acquired under the Aryanzation laws of Vichy."

The Vichy regime collaborated with the Nazis after France's defeat by Germany in 1940.

The letter asked for "an independent body of historians, jurists, and members of the Jewish community to investigate all properties on the city's inventory, obtained in the period 1940-1945, especially including

those currently administered by private management companies."

Samuels said he wrote similar letters to the mayors of Lyon, Strasbourg, Marseille, Toulon, Bordeaux, and Aix-en-Provence to identify property that may have been seized from Jews living in those cities.

Suspicion that Paris possessed Jewish property were stirred last month by a book, *Private Estate*, by Brigitte Vital-Durand, which said the municipality owns 150 buildings in the medieval Marais district, some of which had belonged to Jews, and that some property was sold without its history being disclosed.

Part of the Marais was for a long time the Jewish quarter of Paris.

Tiberi, who succeeded President Jacques Chirac as mayor of Paris last year, ordered the sale of a third of the 1,389 flats the city had acquired over the centuries.

The sale followed a scandal over accusations that city-owned flats were let at below market prices to political cronies and notables, including Prime Minister Alain Juppe.

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A winning combination

It was the most boring election in America's post-war history. It was so boring that it made history. For the first time since Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a Democrat was re-elected president. For the first time since 1928, the public reelected a Republican Congress. Voter turnout also set a record: 49 percent, the lowest ever.

In the last two elections, the American public was feisty. First it ended 12 years of Republican control of the White House, then it ended over 40 years of Democratic control of the House of Representatives. This year, the public said, it's not happy yet, but is willing to give this combination another chance.

Though many Americans say they do not trust President Bill Clinton, *Washington Post* pundit David Broder pointed out that almost three out of five voters rated the economy as good or excellent, and those voters favored Clinton over Republican challenger Bob Dole by a 2-to-1 margin.

At the same time, Americans did not want Clinton to have a free hand.

During the final lap of the campaign, the GOP poured millions into its now-famous "blank check" television ad. The ad, which aired nationwide, urged voters not to give Clinton and the Democrats a blank check — meaning that if this president is to be returned to the White House, at least give him a Republican Congress to wrestle with. The ad was striking in that it meant the GOP had all but forfeited the race for the White House and put all its chips into retaining Republican control of the Congress.

While the Republican Congress became quite unpopular in its first year, by the end of the term it won the people back by passing key budget and welfare reform legislation in cooperation with the White House. Now both parties say they have gotten the people's message: stay in the middle and work together.

Foreign policy was virtually a non-issue during Campaign '96. At a post-election panel discussion yesterday, one analyst reported that in 100 Congressional campaign debates on a given Sunday during the campaign, only five foreign policy questions were raised — and only one of those was on the Middle East.

Today there is much speculation that, because Clinton has won his final election campaign, the gloves will come off and Israel will be pressured in earnest. This is not necessarily so.

Of course, if the Israeli electorate and the American-Jewish community both remain deeply divided regarding the Netanyahu government's approach towards the peace process, the president might be tempted to pressure the Netanyahu government. But if Israel and her

supporters are relatively unified, the US is unlikely to press Israel to change her position, even if the rest of the world is taking the other side.

This is particularly true now, when the American president and the people of Israel have formed a mutual admiration society. Clinton will do what he thinks is right by Israel, which will always be what the broad majority of Israelis want. Only if Israelis cannot agree would Clinton consider pressuring Israel.

This is true regardless of who Clinton chooses to replace Warren Christopher as secretary of state. While the next secretary could be more activist in style, the basic parameters of US policy are unlikely to change.

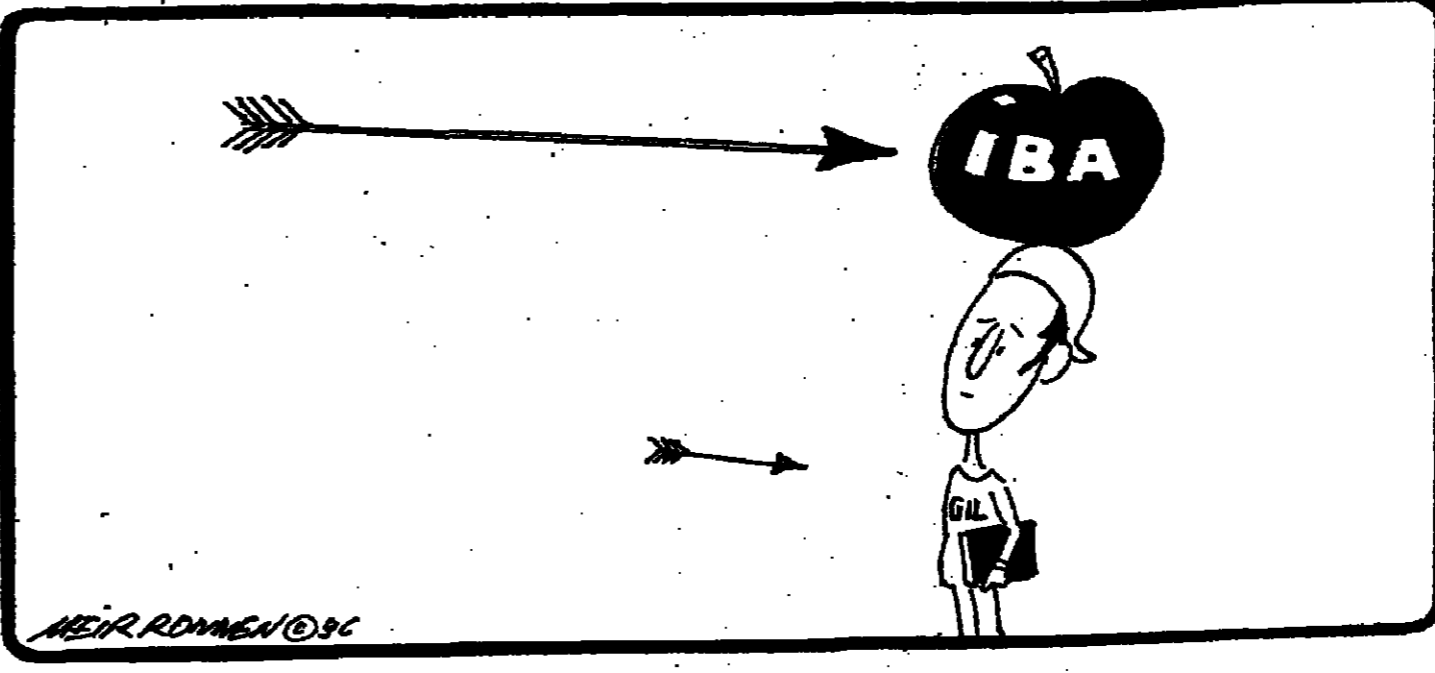
More importantly, the return of a Republican Congress ensures that if the White House toes too tough a line on Israel, pressure will come to bear from the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. While the personal chemistry between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Clinton may take time to develop, the Republican Congress regards the prime minister as a man after its own heart — an Israeli Republican.

This relationship, between Israel and the Congress, will become particularly important in finessing the weaning of Israel from American economic assistance. Netanyahu struck a popular chord in his address to the Congress in the summer, when he suggested a phased reduction in US non-military aid to Israel. So popular, that he had to quickly clarify that he meant a gradual, not immediate reduction.

But Netanyahu was right to open this question. A country as rich as Israel cannot continue to receive such a large portion of a shrinking foreign assistance pie. Rather than be forced to accept a cut, it is much better for Israel to work out a gradual reduction in assistance, while perhaps shifting part of it to shared development funds to create trade and jobs in both countries.

Israel has always been concerned about even symbolic cuts in US assistance. Such cuts might be read by Israel's enemies as a reduction in America's commitment to Israel. The challenge is to reduce aid without signaling a downturn in US-Israel ties. A close relationship between Israel's government and the US Congress will ease the delicate transition from a dependence relationship to one of enhanced economic cooperation.

Indeed, the combination of Clinton in the White House and the Republicans restored to power on Capitol Hill puts Israel in the best possible position to deal with the difficult challenges down the road.



Telling Europe the truth

MOSHE ZAK

THE Spanish ambassador threw a party yesterday for Israelis and Palestinians who took part in the Madrid conference. A celebration of the conference's fifth anniversary, it was intended as a nonpolitical, purely social occasion.

But it was hard to avoid making the link with the ambassador's new position as the European Union's representative following the peace process.

It was rather a pity that there were no speeches. Otherwise the Israelis might have corrected the claim that it was at Madrid that the concept of "land for peace" was legitimized.

Israel actually rejected that formula. In fact prime minister Yitzhak Shamir and US secretary of state James Baker agreed a priori that president Bush would leave it out of his speech.

Another Madrid misconception is the Europeans' fond belief that the conference set in motion an ongoing mechanism in which they would demand a role — when in fact the conference was merely the ceremonial opening of Israeli-Arab bilateral talks.

A lot has changed since Madrid, both in relation to the PLO's participation in the negotiations and that of Arab residents of Jerusalem. But one thing hasn't changed: the Europeans' ceaseless striving for full participation. They have even, over the years, called for economic sanctions should Israel continue opposing a European role.

The failure to realize their Middle Eastern dream led European diplomats to confront Israel in Jerusalem. At first this took the form of provocative visits

to Orient House; but once it became clear that anyone who visited Orient House would not be received by the government, a different kind of provocation came into play.

Today the Europeans visit us to make public declarations of their

The fuel they operate on is self-interest.

And the increasing number of "mediators" between Israel and the Palestinians (and Israel and Syria) has led to competition between all the various proposed settlements — generally at the

stress yet again the great importance Moscow attaches to participating in the peace process.

This week our government also didn't act in its own best interests. In fact, it unintentionally contributed to the impression that it was abandoning its position of stringent opposition to the negotiations becoming an international circus.

In the face of warnings of a large-scale terrorist attack it turned to the US and Germany requesting their help in forestalling a showcase Islamic Jihad operation by appealing to Syria and Iran.

Now secret diplomacy can save lives, and it must never be ruled out. But terrorist squads setting out to attack a target inside Israeli territory hardly carry cellular phones or beepers transmitting instructions from the nerve-centers in Damascus and Teheran.

There is simply no point in demonstrating what amounts to public acceptance of the Germans' claim that "constructive engagement" — or, to put it more crudely, business — with Iran has a positive side.

Nor is it useful to make what sounds like a virtual admission of Israel's inability to solve its own security problems. That only grants the bearers of messages to Damascus and Teheran the right to push their own proposals for solving the conflict.

An undignified international scramble and mad mediators' race might have its amusing side for those who relish black humor. But the peace we long for? That will only recede further into the distance.

The EU can only be a spoke in the wheel of Israeli-Arab negotiations

opposition to our policies and pledge concrete support for the Palestinians. In other words, the practical realization of their much-desired "role" in the negotiations has been to become a spoke in the wheel, a hindrance. The most recent examples were France's Jacques Chirac and Britain's Malcolm Rifkind.

Why, oh why won't the Europeans let us be? In the five years since Madrid we've made fair progress along the peace process path without them.

True, our declarations of principles with the PLO and Jordan were signed at the White House — but on both occasions it was we who surprised the Americans by inviting them to host the ceremonies.

Russian, European, and Egyptian involvement in further agreements? We can manage without.

One thing that shouldn't be assumed is that pure altruism propels these would-be mediators from capital to capital in the region, peddling their services.

The EU can only be a spoke in the wheel of Israeli-Arab negotiations

expense of the side that isn't threatening either war or terrorism.

Sober realization of this has always underlain Israel's position, under all its governments, that it wants direct negotiations with the Arabs, without mediators.

ISRAEL has many channels of communication with the Palestinian Authority. When it shuns these, in other words abandons the path of direct negotiations, that only whets the appetite of outsiders who want in on the process.

Then it happens that the Egyptian foreign minister suddenly remembers the need to invite his Israeli opposite number to visit (to soften him up and squeeze out his agreement to the Hebron accord being signed in Cairo).

And concurrently Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin feels the urge — even while all Russia is riveted on Boris Yeltsin's state of health — to call Benjamin Netanyahu and discuss the Primakov visit to Jerusalem, and

Oy, Jerusalem!

AMOTZ ASA-EL

THOUGH some two millennia have passed since an enraged, provincial, otherworldly Jesus upset the tables of the Temple Mount's money changers, who had innocently converged on his God-seekingly pilgrims, the same anti-economic spirit still infects our capital as it grapples with an ever-uncertain future.

Religiously speaking one could hardly blame the spiritually-overcharged Galilean for reacting so emotionally, having come from far beyond the horizon to what he had envisioned as a heavenly City of God only to find the commercial bustle typical of cosmopolitan multitudes.

Yet even if Jesus could perform miracles the rest of his generation couldn't walk on water, feed 5,000 people with two loaves or turn water into wine; even on the foothills of Mount Moriah they had to earn their bread the hard way.

And the same is true for us.

Beyond the debate over Jerusalem's holiday-traffic arrangements, state aid and secular culture generated by the Zameret Committee head's assertion this week that accelerated "haredization" might make the capital "with- away", the basic question is why this spiritual landmark should be a material basket-case; and what sort of economy its residents will bequeath to their descendants.

The problem isn't new. During four millennia of sanctity, splendor and strife Jerusalem's tormented soul has consistently been torn between the humble chastity of worship and the harsh demands of livelihood.

Here Solomon built monotheism's first grand shrine; but the vast trade over which he presided traveled mainly along the coastal plane and down the Red Sea. After his death the heavenly city and earthly country abruptly parted as Israel broke away from Judea.

Herod sprinkled Jerusalem with splendid minarets, castles and theaters, but the beating commercial heart of his kingdom lay in Caesarea. And soon after his death the city's abandoned construction projects generated unemployment which, coupled with the locals' emotional distance from the heavily-Hellenized and much more affluent coastal

plain, helped feed the intra-Jewish tensions that ultimately resulted in Judea's dismemberment.

The Crusaders built regal courts and government institutions in Jerusalem which created some local prosperity, but they kept their economic engines in maritime Acre and Tyre, which is also why nothing like those towns' business-generating Italian and million tourists annually.

And alas, like under practically everyone else who had ever ruled this city, Jerusalem's post-'67 economy was also based on pilgrim traffic, government institutions and construction projects, with no link to a viable trade route.

Tragically, tourism and construction were structured as labor-intensive employers of cheap

nomically vibrant, cosmopolitan metropolises.

But in the more likely event of Jerusalem continuing to limp along as the financial hick town it currently is, there can be only one remedy: leaving its inhabitants to the markets' devices.

If the state ceased its lavish support of the educational institutions and housing projects that currently service that part of Jerusalem's population which has turned Torah study into a tax-financed industry, many haredim, unable to afford Jerusalem prices, would be compelled to leave the city.

It would then be saved from the urban decay to which this economically deformed population is rapidly dooming it.

Haredim for whom Jerusalem is so dear that they would work hard to shoulder the cost of living in it would remain here in a smaller, less pretentious but more benign and rationally-financed city. In other words, the Rehov Bar-Ilan problem should be treated as one of social, not motorized, mobility.

Ironically today's haredim, who are trying to wrest Zion from Zionism while ignoring its material needs, are following in the footsteps of Jesus' alternative economies.

And while his resurrection remains a subject of controversy, physically speaking it is universally accepted that Jesus' attempt to subsist in Jerusalem while ignoring the unholy world of which it was part and parcel ended in tragic death.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper.

Its tormented soul has always been torn between the humble chastity of worship and the harsh demands of livelihood

French merchant districts could be found in Jerusalem.

In short, mountaintop Jerusalem has historically remained commercially aloof and culturally introverted, mainly because it was distant from regional trade routes.

Today too, while it may lead one far spiritually, materially speaking Jerusalem often leads pretty much nowhere.

This isn't necessarily a disaster, provided the city doesn't live beyond its means. And it wasn't that long ago that Jerusalem was quite modest.

As a child here during the late '60s, I lived in a town off the beaten path with fewer than 200,000 people, mostly supported by civil servants, academics and small shop-owners. Kids from Tel Aviv, on the rare occasions when we saw them, were usually better dressed, better acquainted with pop culture and always up on some foreign word that had yet to climb its way past Sha'ar Hagai.

There was no hint in that Jerusalem of the great post-'67 real-estate boom. Surrounded on three sides by enemy land, we yet had vast open fields of thistles and anemones to roam, amid wrinkled pine trees whose rustle was disturbed only by the occasional church bell clanging somewhere beyond the Old City's walls.

All that changed soon after 1967. We became part of an expanding metropolis, a global landmark of some half a million inhabitants hosting more than a

POSTSCRIPT

HUNGRY FOR publicity but shunned by Madrid's galleries, an unknown Spanish artist hung one of his own paintings in the famed Prado museum.

Victor Ruiz Roizo, 39, used a type of superglue to stick his canvases on the wall of a gallery of 17th century art, where it stayed for four days amid Rembrandts and other masters.

"I planned it for two weeks, figured out what time the most foreign tourists were there so security wouldn't pay attention to what I was carrying, and I acted real fast," the artist said.

Eventually, a visitor pointed out to museum officials that the painting of a human skull with worms, entitled "Afterwards," had a metal plaque dating it 20th century.

Ruiz told the daily *El Pais* that he took the action because he'd been unable to interest art galleries in his work.

"The thing is, you approach the art world and the first thing they ask is for your resume," the untrained artist said. "I'm no good at public relations and I've barely shown, so I thought it would be good to show with Rembrandt and all those guys."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HADASSAH'S RECORD

Sir, — I sadly read journalist Sam Orbaum's description of his experiences as a patient at the Hadassah Medical Center ("The 'Kacha zeh' syndrome," November 1). It is very difficult to respond to a patient on the active list, for very obvious reasons.

Unfortunately, however, it is those people suffering from certain illnesses who are in need of much compassion who come to Hadassah seeking their medical care and also a human caress.

We are indeed sorry that Mr. Orbaum had to wait about four hours for treatment. This was brought to management's attention and was taken up with the parties concerned. Hadassah's policy is that the patient is always right. During the past four years, we have been dealing very intensely with the issue of improvement of patient services, and even won two prestigious prizes — the Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence and Quality, and the Israel Labor Productivity Prize for Quality — for our endeavors. This does not mean that we solved all the problems or

that we are completely satisfied. Our main problem is that we are working at more than 100 percent capacity — and frequently decide to overload, thus risking faulty throughput, but not refusing to admit, or treat or turning people away.

However, having said all this, I feel that Mr. Orbaum wrote his article with a feeling of great hatred (why?), thereby doing a great injustice to many of Hadassah's employees. I also noted that Mr. Orbaum was very careful not to "punch" the physicians and the nurses although it seems that he felt quite free to "punch" the general simple staffers, who he regards as "working in miserable jobs."

With all due respect, this is indeed a rather paternalistic approach to 5,000 devoted employees and is both incorrect and does them undue injustice.

Upon reading the article, I felt that the saying "hated blinds" was quite relevant in this case and it comes out quite clearly when he writes about hospitals cheating the health funds (a fact which is not true). This matter has been discussed and been discussed on the national level, and such vacation

days are never paid for, and have not been paid for by anyone for a long time. And as to patients being turned away from the emergency room because of lack of identity cards, it would have been better had he checked among the more than 100,000 patients who receive treatment in Hadassah's two emergency rooms who do not have an identity card with them.

Not long ago, Mr. Orbaum shared with his readers the fact that Hadassah saved his life (*The Jerusalem Post*, January 12). Does that not count for something?

However, as I have stated earlier, a person should not be judged at his time of grief. A patient is always right, even when he is completely wrong, and we will do our utmost to keep on improving our services and compassion to our patients. Although our occupancy rates are excessive, indicating some satisfaction out there, even one unhappy patient should banish complacency forever from any one of our employees.

PROFESSOR SHMUEL PENCHAS, Director General, Hadassah Medical Organization

his curious definition of Elpeleg as a "left-wing political activist" both hints at political animus and suggests that he may have confused Elpeleg with someone else.

Readers who would like an independent assessment of the book would do well to turn to the review by Daniel Pipes, hardly someone who would miss a "cover-up" if there were one. In his journal, *Middle East Quarterly*, he called Elpeleg's book an "excellent biography": "Thanks to Elpeleg's meticulous, comprehensive, and fast-moving account, we have a real sense of who this figure was and how it was that he did uniquely much to poison relations between Jews and Moslems in Palestine."

MARTIN KRAMER, Director, The Moshe Dayan Center, Tel Aviv.

NO COVER-UP

Sir, — Jay Bushinsky, in his article "Startling cover-up" (October 27), makes an astonishing claim. According to Bushinsky, Ambassador Zvi Elpeleg, in his biography of Haj Amin al-Husseini (published in Hebrew in 1988 and in English in 1993), is guilty of a cover-up of the mufti's pro-Axis activities in Nazi Germany. It is difficult to imagine a more serious charge. It would be impossible to make it more recklessly than has Bushinsky.

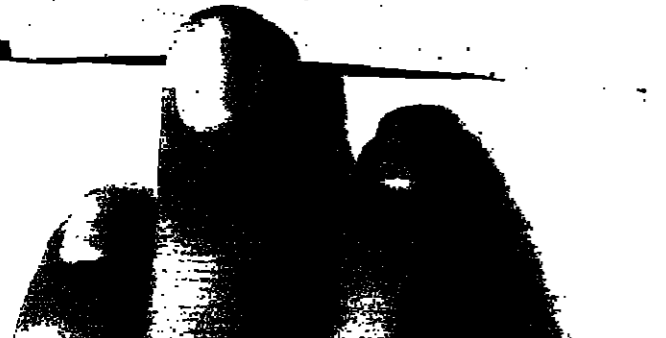
For there is no "cover-up." One of the book's five chronological chapters deals with the mufti during the war, and in it Elpeleg discusses the mufti's attempts to prevent Jewish emigration from the Balkans. The mufti "was not only delighted that Jews were prevented from emigrating to Palestine," writes Elpeleg, "but was very

pleased by the Nazis' Final Solution." Elpeleg goes on to write: "His hatred of the Jews — and not just of Zionism — was faithless, and he gave full vent to it during his period of activity alongside the Nazis. His claim that his cooperation with the Nazis was prompted only by the struggle against the British is groundless."

Elpeleg has also illustrated his book. One photograph shows the mufti with Hitler. Another shows him reviewing Moslem units recruited to German service.

True, Elpeleg is not prepared to estimate the significance of the mufti's actions. He is not a historian of the Holocaust. But if Elpeleg shows reticence here, it is because the Nazis hardly needed the mufti's inspiration to block immigration and exterminate Jews.

Mr. Bushinsky's groundless claims thus make it clear he did not open the book. Furthermore,



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Campaign pledge and its price

BINYAMIN Netanyahu would not have been elected premier had the Labor government been able to prevent the suicide bombings last February and March. After those four horrible attacks Netanyahu placed Israel's personal security at the center of his election campaign.

This government thus cannot afford to take any chances. With detailed warnings of another wave of attacks Netanyahu is acting to redeem his campaign pledges.

The recent traffic jams resulting from intensive police inspections were unprecedented. The anti-terrorist measures cost the economy tens of millions of shekels. Thousands of Israelis spent hours stuck on the highways in cars and buses.

Yet - uncharacteristically - very few complained and most seem grateful that this government is acting responsibly in attempting to prevent another terror wave. Indeed the extensive inspection procedures combined with public warnings have served to revive an esprit d' corps and common sense of defiance in the face of threat.

Shimon Peres as prime minister was paralyzed by the series of terrorist attacks. His paralysis was to cost him dearly. The most fundamental responsibility of any government is to protect its people and his government failed to do so forcefully and clearly.

Intelligence assessments warning

of potential attacks were kept secret. Peres feared that public warnings would create panic and show that the "peace process" had not, after all, ended 70 years of blind hatred.

After the bus bombings in Jerusalem the Labor-led government dismissed the terrorism as "the price of peace." The victims and their families and millions of other potential Israeli victims found small comfort in hearing

priority on terror prevention. The premier and his adviser on terror have not hesitated to declare security alerts when warranted, to order a drastic increase in the level of security, and to close access to Israel from the areas under Palestinian control.

Despite international pressure to lift the closure the government has steadily enforced it, allowing no exceptions that could contribute to

Security, then peace - in that order

that they were "victims of the enemies of peace."

Peres failed to confront Yasser Arafat, who continued to praise the martyrdom of such "heroes" as Yihye Ayyash, "the Engineer," planner of earlier suicide bombings. Arafat would round up the usual suspects then release them after a few days.

Only after the Dizengoff Center bombing did Peres act, imposing a full closure on the areas under Palestinian administration, suspending talks with the Palestinian Authority and freezing the Hebron redeployment.

IN CONTRAST the Netanyahu government has since the beginning of its term placed the highest

another round of terror. After four years of vacillation the concrete wall between Kalkilya and Kfar Sava is finally going up, adding another incremental barrier against terror.

Netanyahu has also made it clear that terrorist attacks will lead to a major military response and bring the negotiating process to an abrupt end.

On the basis of intelligence information pointing to an external (Syrian or Iranian) link to planned attacks, Netanyahu sought and received international assistance. Last week, he called in US Ambassador Martin Indyk, shortly afterwards Secretary of State Warren Christopher spoke to Syria's Hafez Assad warning

him of the consequences of involvement in or support for terror.

A similar message was sent to the leaders of Iran, perhaps through Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov or via European intermediaries. Unofficial reports say this international pressure has significantly reduced the probability of a major terrorist attack.

These measures are no guarantee of success in the war against terror. If there is another wave, the government will be challenged to find the appropriate response. And it will be swift and powerful, punishing the terrorists and their supporters and aiming to deter anyone who would follow their lead.

Netanyahu well knows that any IDF activity in the areas under Palestinian autonomy will be widely condemned in the press and the UN and will lead to angry Arab reactions and a long halt in the Oslo process.

But this is a political price a majority of Israelis would accept for an end to passivity in the face of terror and fear.

When they voted for Netanyahu they voted first and foremost for security. Peace will come after security is established, and not the other way around.

The writer is a senior researcher at Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies.

GERALD M. STEINBERG

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

Best government money can buy

ISRAEL will have the best government that money can buy. This is the reasonable consequence of the budget provision of the Basic Law: The Government.

This law gave us a directly elected prime minister, virtually immune to votes of no-confidence. However, when it comes to the budget, he remains vulnerable. It is a good guess that in a pinch he will buy his way out.

The new law sets a double standard for Knesset support. On the one hand a vote of no-confidence in the premier requires a majority of MKs - that is, 61 votes. When, a few weeks ago, a majority of MKs voting in the Knesset supported such a motion the prime minister sat in ghum dejection while the opposition exuded euphoria.

But nothing earthshaking happened. As the law now reads, a no-confidence vote with less than the required 61-vote majority changes moods, but not governments. But if the budget is not adopted within three months after the beginning of the fiscal year, then the game is up.

If the no-confidence vote had been on the budget, then the Knesset would be dissolved, and there would be new elections.

These are the new rules of the game. During the election campaign the Likud attacked the Labor government for its razor-thin Knesset majority on the sec-

ond stage of the Oslo agreements. Netanyahu, if he were so inclined, could simply ignore a Knesset vote against withdrawal from Hebron, unless it had the support of 61 Knesset members.

Since no-confidence votes not backed by a majority of MKs do not bring down the government, they are likely to become a fairly frequent phenomenon. This is carrying direct election of the premier to its logical conclusion.

In the recent elections people could vote their preference for prime minister while still supporting the party of their choice. The result was the fragmentation of the Knesset into small factions, with a precipitous decline in the strength of the two major parties.

Now the Knesset factions supporting the government coalition can take the process a step further. They can support their factional principles without worrying about bringing down the government. If there is real danger of a 61-member no-confidence vote, they can simply absent themselves from the Knesset chamber during the balloting.

If the lack of a government majority becomes habitual the prime minister will have two alternatives. Under the law, he can, with the agreement of the president, dissolve the Knesset and bring about new

elections. Or, which seems the likelier option, he could ignore the Knesset's lack of majority support for his policy positions or legislative proposals as long as he could get away with it.

THAT IS why the budget vote is so crucial. When it comes to the vote on the budget, he can't get away with it. He needs a majority of the members voting, and he needs it by the end of March. Even if a majority of less than 61 MKs vote against the budget law, the game is up.

If coalition MKs step into the lobby when the vote on the budget is being taken, they are voting to bring down the government and dissolve the Knesset.

Who has most to lose from new elections? Surely not those religious parties whose members vote the way the rabbi says.

It doesn't take a particularly vivid imagination to guess what will be going on behind the scenes as the budget cut-off date approaches. Finance Minister Dan Meridor has made the eminently sensible proposal to shorten the period from three months after the commencement of the fiscal year to two weeks. Not unexpectedly, MKs aren't enthusiastic.

Moreover, changes in the new

law must meet the high standard of Knesset support - the affirmative support of 61 members. Before this law was enacted, only proportional representation had such entrenchment.

Traditionally, this has been the main stumbling block to any real reform of the election system since independence. Now the rules about the direct election of the prime minister, votes of confidence, the adoption of the budget, and the dissolution of the Knesset have become part of Israel's institutional straitjacket.

Entrenchment of basic laws is an essential part of any constitutional scheme. However, in our system, there is no clear distinction between constitutional politics and ordinary politics. The Knesset makes the basic laws, just as it enacts the ordinary ones.

Under these circumstances, we need two tiers of entrenchment: The fundamentals, such as basic human rights, should be protected against transient legislative majorities. However, the mechanics of government, like the way the prime minister is chosen and the Knesset dissolved, should be subject to change, in the light of experience. The 61-vote requirement in the present law should be eliminated.

The writer comments on legal and political affairs.



Boris and the bypass

FOR the first time in world history a person with his finger on a nuclear arsenal button has had coronary bypass surgery. No one before Boris Yeltsin has ever received so much media medical coverage.

Major questions were: Who would operate, when, where, and with the assistance of what famous American surgeon?

But a far more important question for the Russian people, and the world, is: What psychological, emotional and physical effects might follow the surgery and need to be considered as Yeltsin clambers back into the saddle?

The medical term postcardiacomy psychosis is used to describe a form of delirium that is part of a whole range of emotional and behavioral after-effects of coronary bypass surgery.

True, the surgery itself is safe, and more than 95 percent of patients recover; and six months after surgery most feel good enough to move the event out of their daily consciousness.

But until those six months pass, the possible after-effects cannot be ignored.

This is what Drs. Neil Gordon and Larry Gibbons of the famous Dallas Cooper Clinic have to say: "Bypass patients are the most alarmed by temporary intellectual dysfunction. Their minds seem to go a little haywire for stretches of time, ceasing to do their bidding. They have trouble with simple arithmetic, they can't concentrate; they're forgetful."

It begins with uncontrollable moods ranging from depression to flights of fancy; it goes from a feeling that death is imminent to the belief that superhuman powers have restored life.

Patients can swing from self-pity to great hostility. While recovering most physical strength takes from 30 to 100 days, chances are high that patients will lose some hearing, memory or IQ.

MY OWN experience at age 44, 18 years ago, had many of these elements.

I was a senior civil servant in the national government in Washington. Like Yeltsin I had behind me years of professional striving, workaholic days, high living, cigarettes and booze combined with familial high choles-

DOV BURT LEVY

terol, angina pectoris and several near-heart attacks.

When I decided to give myself a second chance through bypass surgery no one told me about the short- and long-term side effects; though if they had I would still have opted for the surgery.

Mood swings: For the first 10 days after surgery I would cry over almost anything. I cried

A kind of delirium is known to seize post-operative patients - and this one has his finger on the nuclear button

Memory: Most patients report not remembering lots of things that happened before, during and after surgery.

I was told that the day before entering the hospital I had seen a house with a For Sale sign, stopped the car, entered and made an offer for a house I didn't need and couldn't afford.

Fortunately I offered less than was wanted and the offer was not accepted. But others have bought fancy Mercedes and large diamonds on the road to and from the hospital.

Many patients find their short-term memory impaired, which is disconcerting and also lowers their IQ score.

This decline is a byproduct of being kept alive on a heart-lung machine for several hours, and of the trauma of having your chest cut open with a circular saw and everything pulled apart to expose and shut down your heart while the blocked arteries are bypassed using leg veins or a mammary artery.

After all that everything gets put together again and started up with an electrical shock. It isn't pretty, and it isn't a procedure that can be done without negative consequences, even if the positive results outweigh the negative.

The message to Russia and the world? Be careful. Keep an eye on Boris. Flights of fancy could make him want to be King of the World. Bouts of depression could make him feel like nothing matters, not even his country's future. A memory loss could make him forget who his local enemies are, or his recent international friends.

The writer is a political scientist and freelance writer.

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Gil Kopatch: Laughing matters

ISRAEL TV has traditionally had plenty of time for Judaism - as long as it knew its place. Half an hour of Hasidic music on a Saturday night, for example, or the chief rabbis' blessings for the High Holidays.

So inviting stand-up comic Gil Kopatch onto an entertainment program - on prime-time Friday night TV - to hold forth on the weekly Torah portion was remarkable, a welcome innovation.

Kopatch's style is remarkable too. His props and flip delivery hold the audience without negating his clear commitment to Torah study and rabbinic literature and the seriousness of the lessons he draws.

Even those who don't share Kopatch's left-wing views must surely recognize the sincerity with which he said, "We will stand by the Jews in Hebron; we are their brothers. But why get bogged down there?" or "Any parent's heart would be broken if they lost their 11-year-old son."

Too much attention has been focused on whether Abraham invited the "Tapuzina model" to Isaac's *brut* and not enough on the solid content of Kopatch's talks.

Clothing serious messages in jokes and a slangy style is part of Jewish tradition. The great talmudic teacher Rabba would begin his

classes by telling jokes. After the sages had finished laughing he would pass on his teachings with reverence (Shabbat 30b).

The style of former chief rabbi Ovadia Yosef's Torah lessons, said a recent article in *Ha'aretz*, was an inspiration for the Gashash Hahiver comedy trio.

Even Kopatch's now-notorious sexual references are actually less

explicit than the original sources. "Rashi never said that Noah did a striptease. You made that up yourself," fumed MK Shlomo Benizri. True enough, but look at what the foremost medieval commentator said about the story of Ham and Noah in Genesis 9, 22: "Some say Ham castrated Noah, and some say he sodomized him." "Dancing with his willy showing" seems mild in comparison.

So why did Benizri want Kopatch axed? Leaving aside the fervor typical of the newly-religious and the hutzpa that makes the MK claim to represent "the whole

secular-religious houses of study are springing up everywhere. The "in" thing in fashionable Tel Aviv circles is a Friday night Talmud class. And this isn't part of the "return to religion" movement, like Uri Zohar or Pupik Aron 20 years ago.

Secular Jews are setting out to repossess Jewish sources without abandoning their own world view or submitting to the party line of this or that rabbi.

This is the last thing Benizri and others like him want.

Nothing was more revealing than the MK's patronizing invitation to Kopatch to spend a Shabbat with him, and the way he told young visitors to the Knesset on Wednesday to "Come and hear me talk about the Torah portion. I can do it in a cozy way too."

This is the style of one who thinks he holds a monopoly on the truth, who thinks his interpretation of the Torah is right, and Kopatch's (or yours, or mine) is wrong.

"The Torah has 70 faces," says the Midrash. Gil Kopatch, like any other Jew, has every right to find one of the 70, or even the 71st.

The writer, a systems analyst, is a former yeshiva student.

Secular Jews are setting out to repossess Jewish sources

general and Torah study in particular belong exclusively to the religious; and that secular Jews have no interest and involvement and perhaps even no right to concern themselves with them.

Even those who disagree with everything the Shas spokesman says have accepted his claim to be the authentic voice of Judaism and granted him the right to interpret the Jewish sources for their own use instead of opening the Bible and Talmud for themselves.

In the last few years this has begun to change. Secular and joint

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Eastern Zaire war refugees reach remote Kisangani

KISANGANI, Zaire (Reuters) - Zaire war refugees began arriving in Kisangani on swollen feet yesterday, after fleeing the fighting far to the east, aid officials said.

The first refugees have arrived in Kisangani. There are 50 or so, and they say there are hundreds behind on the road," said Claude Olenka, local administrator of church charity CARITAS.

"They are sick, their feet are swollen and all their belongings are gone," Olenka said. "We have no means of taking care of them - no food, no medicine. It's a catastrophe."

Olenka told Reuters the 50 Zairean men and women said they had set out from Bukavu, one of three major east Zaire towns seized by Tutsi rebels in two weeks of fighting with the Zaire army.

The Zaireans said Rwandan Hutus, the majority of 1.2 million refugees dispersed from camps, had also headed for Kisangani but may have been blocked by local people.

Refugees arriving in the Rwandan border town of Gisenyi reported people were dying of thirst in the harsh mountains of eastern Zaire.

Kisangani, 500 km. from the eastern town of Goma that lies at the heart of the conflict, is the last major Zairean outpost before a vast stretch of hills and jungle.

It was used by France as a staging post in its 1994 military mission to save hundreds of thousands of Hutus fleeing Rwanda after Hutu hardliners massacred up to a million Tutsis and their sympathizers. Diplomats say it is likely to play the same role if a French-inspired multinational rescue force is set up.

It was not clear when the refugees left Bukavu. Fear and tension gripped the city long before Banyamulenge rebels stormed it soon after war erupted in the region on October 18.

Anti-Rwanda riots have spread to Kisangani and aid workers said the presence of Rwandan refugees in an area where food is acutely short is bound to fuel local resentment.

"The refugees hide themselves where they can because of the local people," Olenka said. "There is a serious food shortage here and it is fast approaching disaster."

European Union aid ministers, stung by French criticism of "spineless inaction," met yesterday to seek a joint response to the deepening human crisis.

France and Spain have proposed a multinational force of about 5,000 to secure corridors for food aid and passage of refugees to go home. The United States has offered logistics support, but no other Western nation has so far offered troops.



Russian communists carry portraits of Lenin and wave Soviet flags as they march past a western advertising poster in Moscow yesterday. Thousands of communists took to Moscow's streets to mark the 79th anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution. (Reuters)

Yeltsin offers Russia concept of undivided nation

MOSCOW (Reuters) - President Boris Yeltsin, starting his return to political life after a marathon heart operation, marked yesterday's anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution by calling for national unity guided by a firm hand in the Kremlin.

"We are one nation," Yeltsin said in a statement issued from the intensive care ward where he is recovering from his seven hours of surgery. "We have one fate, one future. And we are all from the same past."

The 1917 revolution split Russia into warring factions.

"To this day, the nation is split into reds and whites, into us and them," Yeltsin said. "It is time to end this. We have one Russia and we must be together."

Yeltsin ordered that November 7, celebrated for 79 years as Revolution Day, should be renamed as a mark of remembrance for the victims of national discord and to promote civil peace.

"Keen not to allow confrontation

in the future, in the interests of unity... I declare the November 7 holiday to be the Day of Accord and Reconciliation," Yeltsin's decree said. It also said 1997 would be the Year of Accord and Reconciliation.

While offering an olive branch to political foes in Moscow, Yeltsin made it clear he would stamp out independent-minded regional leaders who tried to short-circuit the central authorities and rule their domains without reference to the capital.

He issued a decree introducing a system of watchdog bodies charged with enforcing the Kremlin's will anywhere in Russia.

Yeltsin's press secretary Sergei Yastrzhembsky told a news briefing that the new holiday is an integral part of Yeltsin's new political concept, which he had been planning to put into action after his reelection in July.

"The idea of accord and reconciliation is central to the president's second term," Yastrzhembsky said.

"The president is closing the era of discord and public cataclysm which ravaged the country for long years between 1905 and 1993. This is a step by a powerful president," he said, referring to the period between the first Russian revolution and the abortive hard-line parliamentary revolt against Yeltsin.

Russia has changed dramatically after five years of economic and political reform putting it on the road to capitalism.

Yeltsin's new line is unlikely to please hard-core leftists, who held rallies across Russia yesterday, or radical liberals.

The liberals want the Kremlin to brand the 1917 revolution as a crime against the nation. Radical communists say there can be no peace until communism is restored.

But moderate communist and reformist leaders, who form the bulk of Moscow's new establishment, seem keen to foster stability in a country in the face of huge financial problems and a growing threat of regional separatism.

Clinton could announce cabinet changes today

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Bill Clinton yesterday considered new faces to replace a stream of departing cabinet members and top aides and could announce his choices at a news conference today.

Leon Panetta, the White House Chief of Staff credited with restoring order to a somewhat chaotic operation, is leaving to return to California, where the former congressman is expected to run for governor.

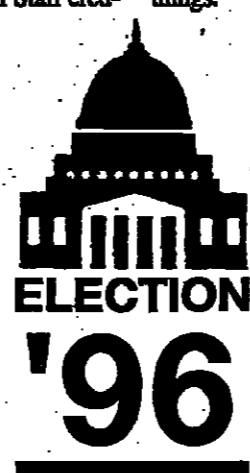
Erskine Bowles, a North Carolina businessman and longtime Clinton friend, is reported to be a candidate to replace Panetta in the politically sensitive post. The chief of staff will have to chart a strategy for dealing with Republicans in Congress who are pressing for investigations of Clinton's campaign finances and other alleged misdeeds.

Clinton may have to fill as many as seven cabinet posts before he is sworn in on January 20.

White House adviser George Stephanopoulos said on Wednesday night that Clinton would hold a news conference by the end of the week, probably today. "I think you'll have that replacement [for Panetta] named very soon," Stephanopoulos said on CNN's *Larry King Live*.

It is important to have the White House structure in place early on in the transition... to make sure we have an orderly process of new cabinet announcements," he said.

Stephanopoulos, one of the president's closest advisers, also said in the CNN interview he too is likely to leave. He said he planned "to take a week to think about it on the beach," but added: "I've had a great run - I'm probably going to move on to other things."



After a triumphant return on Wednesday and a dinner celebration with several hundred supporters, Clinton was spending yesterday discussing a new cabinet with aides.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Defense Secretary William Perry have already told the president they will resign.

One official also said Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor is planning to return to private life, and Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary said she would leave. Others who may go are Transportation Secretary Federico Pena, Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros, and Education Secretary Richard Riley.

Christopher, 71, and Perry, 69, had both made it known they wanted out from a second term. Officials said Christopher is expected to keep his post until Clinton's inauguration, while Perry may return to private life within a few months once a successor is chosen.

UN Ambassador Madeleine Albright and former Sen. George Mitchell are considered leading candidates to succeed Christopher, while CIA Director John Deutch is likely to take Perry's place.

Vote leaves Republicans, Clinton stressing common ground

WASHINGTON (AP) - Unlike the pugacious bickering that marked their first union, President Bill Clinton and congressional Republicans say they may be able to make a divided government work better the second time around.

"What the American people want us to do now is roll up our sleeves, get together," Clinton said a day after voters granted him a second term, while retaining Republican majorities in the House and Senate.

He said if the two sides can continue the cooperation they showed in the final weeks of the 104th Congress just past, "we are going to have a great, great opportunity here."

Republicans said now that Clinton has adopted their agenda of balancing the budget and cutting taxes, there is potential for producing the progress that Americans are demanding.

"Assuming that 1997 is a continuation of what he campaigned on this year, there's no reason that we can't find common ground," House Speaker Newt Gingrich told supporters in Smyrna, Georgia. "We don't have to live in a world of confrontation."

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said if Clinton follows up on his talk of eschewing big government, "We're going to be able to do some good things for the American people."

When Republicans captured congressional control in 1994 for the first time in four decades, both sides' rhetoric was less accommodating.

In his first Washington address following that vote, Gingrich served notice: "I am very prepared to cooperate with the Clinton administration. I am not prepared to compromise."

The president said then that he would reach out to the Republicans, but said he would not "compromise on my convictions."

But after a stormy first 16 months in which two partial federal shutdowns wounded the Republicans in the public relations wars, Republicans decided to be less confrontational.

Republicans and the White House believe they benefited when they concluded the 1995-96 Congress with compromises on increasing the minimum wage, modest health-care expansions, and other bills. Gingrich said Republican leaders would like to meet with Clinton next week to discuss the legislative agenda.

That doesn't mean there won't be combat. Lott promised hearings on Democratic fund-raising from foreign sources that raised questions during the campaign's final weeks, adding, "Congress does have a responsibility to look into those matters."

But some Republicans have little stomach to continue probing the Whitewater series of allegations against the president and his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton. That job

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Bhutto visits detained husband

ISLAMABAD (AP) - Ousted Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto yesterday met her detained husband - the man whose sullied reputation helped lead to her ouster.

A close family friend said Bhutto spent about two hours with her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, whom he described as looking weak. He had no details of their discussions.

Zardari was being held at Sahala, a government building 50 km. north of Islamabad that often is used as a jail for political dissidents. Bhutto herself was held there in 1979, the year her father, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was executed by the military dictator who toppled him in 1977.

Bashir Kiaz, an aide to Bhutto, said charges had yet to be filed against Zardari, who served as Bhutto's investment minister. He had been embroiled in several

financial scandals, earning the nicknames "Mr. 10 Percent" and later "Mr. 40 Percent" for the commissions he allegedly charged businessmen seeking his help.

The caretaker government, meanwhile, has stressed its commitment to economic reform. Yesterday, a government spokesman said respected World Bank economist Shahid Javed Burki would be appointed special financial adviser to the Cabinet, a move likely to reassure the business community here and abroad.

The cabinet on Wednesday announced a series of spending cuts and ordered a review of state-owned companies to determine whether some could be sold or streamlined.

Newspapers predicted a purge of political appointees in the civil and foreign service following the government shake-up.

NEWS IN BRIEF

US Mars probe heads for the Red Planet

CAPE CANAVERAL (Reuters) - A US Mars probe blasted off on a 10-month interplanetary voyage to the Red Planet yesterday. The Mars Global Surveyor soared aloft at 1700 GMT atop a McDonnell Douglas Corp. Delta 2 rocket launched from Cape Canaveral Air Station.

NASA had just 20 days to get the probe off the launch pad or faced a wait of 25 months for the planets to realign. The launch was one day late because the takeoff was delayed by bad weather. The probe is due to slip into an egg-shaped orbit around Mars on September 12 next year. It will lower and circularize its orbit by dipping into the thin Martian atmosphere and using its wing-like solar panels as air brakes.

Jewish cemeteries desecrated

PRAGUE (AP) - A Jewish cemetery was desecrated over the weekend, police said yesterday. Seven tombstones at the Jewish cemetery in Lomnice u Tisnova, 200 km. southeast of Prague were pushed over and four of them were seriously damaged, said Josef Cvecek of the local police. Police still don't know who is responsible for the desecration, which probably happened late Saturday or early Sunday, Cvecek said.

Meanwhile, Polish police are investigating the desecration of 43 graves at the pre-war Jewish cemetery in the southern city of Oswiecim, where the former Nazi death camp of Auschwitz is located.

Brazil air crash caused by electronic error

SAO PAULO (Reuters) - An electronic malfunction that activated an engine thrust reverser caused last week's downing of a Fokker-100 aircraft in Sao Paulo which killed 98 people, a newspaper reported yesterday. *O Estado de Sao Paulo*, citing a source who had access to information on the plane's Flight Data Recorder, said the malfunction caused the Fokker's right turbine to reverse its thrust during takeoff.

Nigerian airliner missing with 141 on board

LAGOS (Reuters) A Nigerian passenger plane went missing yesterday with 141 people on board, the aviation company operating the aircraft said.

The Aviation Development Company (ADC) said the Boeing 727 had been flying from the Nigerian city of Port Harcourt to Lagos with 132 passengers and nine crew members.

"A search and rescue operation is going on," said a statement from the company, read out on state television.

The aircraft had been out of contact for at least five hours.

The stone setting for the late
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our dearly beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, will take place **ביום ראשון** on Monday, November 11, at 1:30 p.m. at Hayarkon Cemetery, Tel Aviv.

The Bereaved Family in Israel and in Albany, N.Y., Miami, Fla., and Scarsdale, N.Y.

On the 30th day of the passing of our beloved
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We will meet for the unveiling on Sunday, November 10th, 1996 at 3.30 p.m. at Hayarkon Cemetery

The Shneiderman and Sarid Families

The eight-page New York Times Weekly Review including US and world news and views, business, arts and crossword distributed free with **THE JERUSALEM POST** every Monday

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But you still can't argue with the facts: In his weekly financial newsletter on August 9, international currency expert Brian Marber strongly recommended investing in the British pound, then trading at approximately 1.5480 against the \$US. Marber consistently repeated this advice weekly through October 10 and the pound has continued to rise.

As of November 5, the British pound has reached a new high of 1.6568. On an initial investment of \$2000 in a futures contract in August, that would have translated into a profit of over \$6500 in a 3-month period, after all commissions.

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NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, November 8, 1996

Desperately seeking a legacy

The peace process must be among Clinton's achievements, Hillel Kuttler writes from Washington



RONALD Reagan established one. So did Franklin D. Roosevelt. Richard Nixon might have, but Watergate created one for him instead. Dwight Eisenhower? Who knows? What these ex-presidents sought was a legacy, an imprint on American history citizens might recall at the mere mention of their name. As a president who has just won a second term, Bill Clinton presumably seeks to join the pantheon.

Analysts of foreign policy and of the presidency predict, though, that even freed from running for re-election in 2000, Clinton is unlikely to twist Israel's arm in the peace talks to secure agreements that would solidify his name. The reasons, they say, are twofold: It would be uncharacteristic for Clinton to do so and it is bound to be counterproductive.

In addition, any concern that Clinton might be inclined to do so would be tempered by his wish not to harm the presidential election prospects for Al Gore four years from now. Perhaps because second-term presidents have been so rare in the past 50 years - Clinton is the first Democrat since FDR - to win consecutive elections - no sooner does the incumbent make his victory speech than the "L" word materializes.

Such was the case in Washington this week. Experts believe that with Republicans maintaining control of both houses of Congress for at least the next two years, a Clinton legacy in the second term might be in the foreign affairs arena. "A focus on legacy for a second Clinton term will mean a more focused foreign policy," said Marshall Bregier, who served under Reagan. "If he thinks legacy, he has to include the Middle East."

The reasoning for a new foreign-affairs focus may be that the Republicans are likely to oppose major White House domestic initiatives. On top of that, they will stymie the president with continued hearings on the Whitewater affair and may initiate investigations into Democratic campaign contributions.

That leaves foreign affairs as an escape hatch for the president, an area where he might leave his mark with less interference. The irony is that

Clinton entered office in 1993 as the domestic-minded president.

"There will be no change, since continuity rather than contrast characterizes a change in administrations. This is one of the few issues that is truly bipartisan," said a senior US official involved in Middle East affairs. "I would expect a continuity in our relations with Israel and with those Arab countries committed to peace."

"The fact we were so involved in [Hebron] negotiations the last three weeks is a testament to

the trust we have of the Israelis and that the Palestinians have."

Of the peace process, the official said "it's too complex an issue to shoulder one side with the responsibility that would require a US response."

Which is not to say that Clinton will not shift tactics at all, on Israel or other global issues. "It's quite a complicated thing. It's not, 'Will the US pressure Israel?' I think that's ridiculous," said Judith Kipper, a Middle East analyst

at the Center for Security and International Studies.

"The most important thing any president can do with any prime minister is to say, eyeball to eyeball, what you mean and mean what you say."

"To get any read on how the president will handle foreign policy in the next four years, the great unknown is who constitutes his team."

Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Defense Secretary William Perry are already said to have submitted their resignations. Chess

pieces then might be shifted around the board, with national security adviser Anthony Lake moving to the State Department - or perhaps it will be UN ambassador Madeleine Albright. And then the question becomes: Who replaces her?

Christopher's replacement is the key. Richard Holbrooke, who brokered the Bosnia peace treaty at Dayton, Ohio, last year, is also rumored to be a leading candidate.

So is former Senate majority leader George Mitchell, who was Clinton's envoy to the Northern Ireland peace talks. Then there is former Senate arms services committee chairman Sam Nunn, newly retired from Capitol Hill. Then again, Nunn could get the Pentagon portfolio.

"Christopher brings to diplomacy a lawyerly, low-key style. It's conceivable if someone came in like Holbrooke or [Thomas] Pickering [who just stepped down as ambassador to Russia], you might have a more forceful foreign policy - not night and day ... but like [former president George] Bush and [Christopher's predecessor James] Baker - a little arm twisting," said William Quandt, who ran Middle East affairs at the National Security Council under president Jimmy Carter.

"If Albright or [ambassador to Japan Walter] Mondale comes in, I wouldn't expect a change at all." Crises aside, international matters are bound to occupy Clinton - from strengthening Russia's conversion to democracy, engaging China on continued bilateral trade and human rights disputes to keeping a vigilant eye out for any signs Marxism is fading in Cuba and North Korea.

Depending on whom you ask, Clinton will face a cooperative Congress or a scrappy one as he seeks its endorsement for his plan to expand NATO by 1999. NATO expansion was the focus of the only speech on international affairs he gave during the just-concluded campaign.

Some also believe that the US's "dual containment" policy toward Iran and Iraq faces revision in a second Clinton term.

"Clearly the status quo is becoming uncomfortable for the US in the sense it is much more difficult now for us to get support even for responses to Iraq and Iran," said international relations professor Shibley Telhami of Cornell University. "And despite all the efforts we're putting into opposition to Iran, they're still pursuing weapons of mass destruction and the policy isn't working."

Nevertheless, at this early stage, predictions of major policy changes are risky, said Quandt.

"We don't have a lot of experience with second-term presidents. There's no reason to expect a dramatic turnaround. There's no reason to think Clinton has a dramatic foreign policy agenda he's waiting to spring on the country in a second term."

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Israel's 'Salman Rushdie' rattles the coalition

Never has a Friday night 'Torah reading' caused so much controversy. Michal Yudelman reports on Gil Kopatch's unholy sermon

NEVER in his wildest dreams could stand-up comedian Gil Kopatch have written a script like it. Never would a variety-show producer have accepted such a preposterous scenario.

The idea is this: A satirical "Shabbat Torah portion" is aired on a Friday night prime-time variety show, resulting in the comedian being sucked into the center of a major political storm (complete with enough threats on his life to earn him the title of Judaism's first "Salman Rushdie"), and then it all rolls on into a coalition crisis threatening the government.

Any self-respecting agent would show a script-writer the door for a cuckoo of an idea like that. Yes indeed, fact is stranger than fiction. For several weeks, Kopatch's hilarious interpretation of the Torah portion has been zooming up the ratings poll of Yair Lapid's show - delivering Channel 1 a welcome satirical answer to the runaway success of Channel 2's *Hartzoim*.

This week, after it was aired on Shelley Yehimovitz's Israel Radio talk show *Hakol Diburim* ("It's All Talk"), Shas MK Shlomo Benizri called Avigdor Lieberman, the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, and demanded that the segment be banned immediately. Benizri said that if "the wicked clown Gil Kopatch" was not removed, he would move that the Knesset Finance Committee cut the Israel Broadcasting Authority allocation out of the budget, or even torpedo the coalition.

Religious and haredi Knesset factions leaped on the Benizri bandwagon of outrage, and formed a chorus demanding the elimination of Kopatch's spot.

The really serious issue, as Knesset members readily admitted, was not the satirical spot itself, or even whether Kopatch was a new Salman Rushdie (no one has yet pronounced a *fatwa* or even a *din rodef* on him). It was, as articulated by Tommy Lapid on *Popolitica*, whether people who don't watch television at all, especially on Friday night, can be allowed to determine what the rest of the public can see.

The secondary issue is whether the religious parties have some sort of monopoly on the Bible, and the right to censor opinions they don't like. If the religious

are inexplicably tuned in on Friday night and don't like Kopatch, suggested many outraged viewers, then let them switch to another station. "If every time a religious program is broadcast - and there are plenty of them - should secular people call up to say they 'don't like it' and 'take it off'?" asked one radio caller.

Representatives of the religious and haredi Knesset factions met Lieberman as they quickly closed ranks to condemn Kopatch and those who broadcast him. "Shocking blasphemy, an insult in the holy of holies of Judaism," they complained. "Kopatch is trampling with arrogance and contempt over every Jewish feeling, everything sacred," said Benizri. They demanded that Lieberman "take care" of the IBA.

MK Avraham Ravitz of the United Torah Judaism faction said "there are all kinds of people in the IBA who know their days are numbered and who have been using the past months to do worse things than they did under the previous government." He urged Lieberman and his people to "act like men" and get rid of Kopatch's tainted portion.

Lieberman met the legal advisers of the Prime Minister's Office who were of the opinion that Kopatch's satire violated the law. He also met with IBA director-general Mordechai Kirschenbaum.

KOPATCH'S comic interlude, which so aroused religious and haredi wrath and threatened even to rattle the government, casts a startlingly modern light on the Torah portion of the week - often in the street Hebrew of today's youth, giving it political edge and contemporary social interpretation. Kopatch treats Bible heroes irreverently, bringing out their human foibles as though they were flesh and blood.

The matriarch Sarah was assessed by Kopatch as a light-headed ninny who giggles at everything, and makes the life of her Egyptian maid, Hagar, a misery, before finally firing her. To this he added the conclusion that "Sarah will always be Sarah whether it's Sarah the matriarch, or Sarah Nctanyahu."

In another segment Kopatch quoted the verse "Noah drank the wine, and was drunken, and he was uncovered within his tent"

(Genesis 9:21). "This means," said Kopatch, "not only was Noah bombed out of his mind, he probably danced in his tent and did a striptease. Ham saw his father's nakedness. Apparently, Noah was a bit of an exhibitionist. He liked dancing with his willy hanging out. The amazing

thing is, he was about 600 years old. Ham saw him and got a shock. You ask yourself, what's so shocking about the willy of a 600-year-old man? And Ham, of all people, who was the ancestral father of the blacks."

In another portion, Kopatch said Abraham gave a ball to celebrate Isaac's birth, and invited all the biblical jet-set and celebrities of the day, including the Tapuzina model.

A meeting of the Knesset Education Committee, which convened to discuss the issue on Wednesday, turned into a shouting match between haredi and secular Knesset members, until it resembled a bad imitation of *Popolitica*. But even committee members could not restrain their howls of laughter when the wickedly funny Kopatch, who was invited, made his address. Labor MK Hagai Merom

accused Lieberman of "acting more like a commissar than a civil servant."

"After the affair of General Oren Shahor, in which [the Prime Minister's Office] tried to impose a reign of fear on the army, they're now trying to intimidate and scare the IBA," Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid said: "Even Noah had a willy, despite being a righteous man. If God now needs the protection of



Avigdor Lieberman, then He must be in a sorry state indeed." Haredim, who suggested Channel 1 would never make fun of the Koran or the New Testament, were quickly reminded that international defenders of freedom of expression had fiercely resisted Moslem and Christian fundamentalist attacks on *The Satanic Verses* and the satirical movies about Jesus, *The Last Temptation* and *The Life of Brian*.

"If Gil Kopatch's 'portion' of the show goes, I go," said program host Yair Lapid. Lapid, who has also been getting the inevitable threats on his life over the Kopatch segment, denied the "portion" was intended to insult or mock anyone.

"On the contrary, the whole idea comes from a deep love for the Bible and appreciation of the text," he said. "The Bible doesn't belong to any person or group. The whole beauty of it is that everyone can interpret it in his own way. We took it and made it into something living which speaks to everyone. The religious people want to hijack the Bible just for themselves. They don't want secular people to read the Bible. Anyway, who appointed Benizri as a mediator between the people and the Bible?"


Kopatch agrees. "I think the Bible and Jewish heritage belong to the whole nation and not to one haredi or religious stream. Secular people are also Jews, and it's their right to interpret the text. The language I use is the language of my audience. What do you want me to speak in, Aramaic? Yiddish? The humor is just the means of conveying the message. Each stream has its own interpretation, and mine is as legitimate as anyone else's."

"Nobody has a monopoly on the Bible," said Kirschenbaum, agreeing that Kopatch merely paraphrases the text in contemporary language. "There is no intention of hurting anyone. It must be clearly understood that not every group in the country has a right to decide what can and cannot be broadcast. The IBA must satisfy many different sectors of the public, including the secular one. These people will be very hurt if Kopatch's contribution is canceled."

"I'm against obscenities. But to say that being 'stoned' is an obscenity? It's more graceful than plain 'drunk.' Or to say that Noah was naked, that's what the Torah says, isn't it? And when a man is naked, in today's world you may say he had his willy out. Who is hurt by it? Noah's family? Even if Noah was alive today, who would be hurt by it?"

At this point Kopatch's item will remain part of the Lapid show, but its fate may indeed hang in the balance.

One thing is certain: Gil Kopatch will win ratings for his Torah portion tonight that many comedians would sell their souls for.



STATE OF ISRAEL
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Scholarships for Study Abroad for the Academic Year 1997-98

Israel has student-exchange agreements with various countries. Under agreements with the countries whose names are given below, scholarships will be given to Israeli students for use in the 1997-98 academic year for one year of studies, in the student's field.

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- Some of the above countries offer scholarships for summer courses in language and culture.
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- Curriculum vitae.
- Diplomas attesting completion of studies courses, including a transcript of the student's scholastic record.
- At least two recommendations from professors who knew the candidate while he was studying.
- Two photographs, exact postal address, telephone and fax numbers.
- A knowledge of the language of the country in which the applicant wishes to study is necessary (except for some programs for which studies in English are approved by the host country).

The application and all necessary documents should be typed/printed in English, and submitted in two SEPARATE copies.

A separate application should be made for each country.
Applications should be sent to: Bureau of the Deputy Director-General for International Relations, Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, Jerusalem 91911, Tel. 02-5803700, 02-5803705.

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According to State Regulations 1988

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The (next) struggle for Jerusalem

EASTERN Jerusalem's future has emerged ever more clearly as the most emotional, violence-prone issue for the Palestinians. The politics of this passion has become one of the peace process's most important elements, and potentially its downfall.

How do Palestinians view the Jerusalem question? On one level, the answer is very simple and can be expressed in a single sentence: Eastern Jerusalem must be the capital of a West Bank/Gaza Palestinian state. This formula is constantly repeated by Palestinian Authority (PA) officials and average citizens alike.

There are three bases to the Palestinian Arab claim over the eastern part of Jerusalem. Ironically, the religious factor - which has become the most powerful by far, is the most factually shaky. It is easy to show the religious limits to Jerusalem's Islamic importance. Except for the single incident of Mohammed's journey to Heaven - whose meaning has grown for largely political reasons in recent times - the city's only significance to Moslems derives from its prominence for Jews and Christians. The often-cited claim that Jerusalem is the third holiest city for Moslems is unfounded.

In fact, this growth in Jerusalem's Islamic centrality can be traced directly to a 1931 conference organized by Palestinian nationalists to mobilize support from Moslems everywhere. The Palestinian fundamentalists, who argued that all the land from the Jordan river to the Mediterranean Sea was equally sanctified, are also newcomers to making any special claim for Jerusalem.

In terms of the current situation, critiquing this point is largely academic. Moslems have become convinced that eastern Jerusalem is an Islamic holy place, and this is an important factor motivating their behavior. The September riots demonstrate that fact.

This offers important clues to Jerusalem's contemporary role for Palestinians. It is one of the few cards they have left to win foreign backing at a time when they have so little of it.

One of the few things the two sides have in common is that both Israel and the PA oppose any internationalization of Jerusalem.

In addition, the incredible emotive power of Jerusalem is an incredible mobilizing tool for PA head Yasser Arafat among the Palestinians themselves. By waving this banner, he can overcome internal divisions and outshoot domestic criticisms of his own rule. This is exactly what he did, most effectively, by encouraging last September's confrontation.

The Palestinian second pillar in asserting their rule over eastern Jerusalem is historical. Arabs ruled Jerusalem for over 800 years. The struggle against the Crusades heightened the city's psychological significance. While never an Arab capital or cultural center, Jerusalem was certainly a very important emblem, a good preparation for its symbolic importance today.

But the first two claims loom large in the contemporary Israel-Palestinian and Middle East situation, they also pose a possible problem for the Palestinians themselves. After all, if Jerusalem is so potent a symbol for Moslems and for Arabs, where is the distinctively Palestinian identity there? Of course, the PA argues that it is the city's rightful guardian on behalf of Islamic and Arab interests. But others could make the same claim.

This is why the Palestinian claim's third portion - its national aspect - is so indispensable and also pragmatic. Outside of the Jewish Quarter and the new Jewish suburbs, eastern Jerusalem is clearly a Palestinian city. It also has the most populous metropolitan area and is the only important urban locale within the would-be Palestinian state's territory. It is home to much of the Palestinian elite. Without eastern Jerusalem, a Palestinian state would be a collection of towns and villages, with no claim to international attention.

Moreover, asserting Jerusalem's primacy is a way to overcome the strong localism which still pervades Palestinian society.

Only Jerusalem can assert its primacy over Hebron and Nablus or other places; only Jerusalem might overwhelm the potential rivalry between Gaza and the West Bank.

In short, its population, prestige, capacity to mobilize activism, as well as Arab and Islamic recognition, make eastern Jerusalem indispensable to the PA as part of any political solution. And under the Oslo accords, Arafat (like Israel) has every right to claim eastern Jerusalem.

HOW DOES the Arab world view this Palestinian position on eastern Jerusalem? In general, it gives the PA complete, albeit largely verbal, support. Morocco,

Barry Rubin discusses the next major hurdle in the peace process, and whether it will deadlock or conclude the talks

as chair of the Arab League Jerusalem Committee, and Saudi Arabia, given its intense religious orientation, are especially interested in the subject.

The sole exception here is Jordan, which has its own claim on the city - which it governed between 1949 and 1967. As part of its pattern of preserving the status quo in the territories, Israel left control of the Islamic holy sites to a committee appointed from Amman. The Israel-Jordan peace treaty confirmed this arrangement. Thus, as long as Israel stays in eastern Jerusalem, so does Jordan's presence.

Obviously, the PA views Jordan's role and ambitions with distrust. King Hussein asserted his continued interest in eastern Jerusalem by financing the regilding of the Dome of the Rock's roof. Only a few weeks ago the PA showed its desire to erode any Jordanian involvement when some of its agents tried to take over the Waqf office which runs the holy sites, and expel Jordan's appointees. Amman appealed to Israel to repel this incursion.

While maintaining a rearguard action, though, Jordan cannot realistically be expected to challenge most of the Arab world in trying to regain control over eastern Jerusalem. This is especially so in light of the king's 1988 decision to drop his claims to the West Bank. Certainly, Jordan will want to maximize its influence over the Arabs west of the river. But it does not seem to provide a realistic alternative for Israel to dealing with the Palestinians on this issue.

The Palestinian claim on eastern Jerusalem is not going to go away. Most Israelis want to maintain the city's unity under Israel's control - as Jerusalem has been governed since 1967.

Whatever that position merits, however, it should be clear that a refusal to make any concessions will ensure the peace process's failure and an inability to conclude a treaty with the Palestinians.

But many outside observers often forget that the same principle applies to the Palestinians. They, too, must make some compromises with Israel's position, needs, and public opinion. Otherwise, Israel will simply continue to control Jerusalem and - in the absence of a negotiated settlement - the territories as a whole.

WHAT FLEXIBILITY might be expected from the PA in its own efforts and necessity to reach an agreement? The key to the answer - albeit remarkably complex and difficult - is that in maintaining that they will attain Jerusalem as their capital, the Palestinians must define "Jerusalem" and "capital."

Then comes the really hard part. From the Palestinian standpoint, there are six critical issues: **• Israel's Position.** What, if anything, will Israel agree to cede in exchange for its other demands regarding Jerusalem? If the answer is absolutely nothing, the PA will not make any concessions either. Without entering into the merits of Israel's stance that Jerusalem must remain its undivided capital, maintaining that Israel must have unrestricted sovereignty over all of Jerusalem will mean that no agreement is possible and the peace process will collapse. Neither the Palestinians nor the Arabs in general will endorse any agreement which gives them nothing more on Jerusalem than they have now.

• Defining east Jerusalem. This depends on how one draws the city's boundary lines which were expanded by Israel. The PA is also probably little interested in trying to absorb the new Jewish areas and suburbs such as Ramot, Gilo, Ramat Eshkol, French Hill, and so on, whose Jewish residents outnumber the Arabs living in the city. In exchange for Palestinian control of the Arab neighborhoods, it would cede these sections.

• Who will govern the Arab-populated sections of east Jerusalem, including the Old City and the Temple Mount? The PA's real starting point in negotiations is to demand sovereignty over this area. It might well concede control of the Jewish Quarter, including the Western Wall, if given the rest. Again, though, if Israel does not make concessions, neither will the PA.

• Defining the concept of a Palestinian capital. This could mean the PA would accept having its administrative center in part, perhaps even a nominal part - of eastern Jerusalem. There is again an irreducible minimum that might be acceptable here.

• Definition of sovereignty. PA rule over Palestinian neighborhoods might be restricted in various ways, perhaps to a form of local government with participation of these residents, as Palestinian citizens, in "national" politics.

• How to keep the city functional by united and secure even with split control? There are many plans conceivable here, with the problem that what looks good on paper may be unworkable in reality.

IN THE end there is a paradox. If both sides refuse to concede anything, an agreement on Jerusalem is impossible. If there is no agreement on Jerusalem then there will be no peace treaty. Conflict and bloodshed will continue.

At the same time, it is hard to conceive of a middle ground which is acceptable to public opinion on either side, and it is also difficult to find a solution which can actually work.

The PA's position may not be inflexible in translating its basic principle - eastern Jerusalem as an integral part and capital of a Palestinian state - into an agreement. But it will not accept the status quo. And like Israel, the Palestinians will only give up things if they also get things.

During 1997, the debate on Jerusalem, both between and within the two sides, will no longer be an abstract discussion. Rather, it will be the seemingly immovable object blocking the road to peace.

Returning from Washington, Itamar Rabinovich shares his insights on Syria negotiations with Steve Rodan

ITAMAR Rabinovich sits in a small office at the Dayan Center for Middle East Studies trying to finish a sentence over the noise of the ringing phone. He interrupts to take the call.

"Sorry," an aide says as she walks in. "He wanted to talk to you now."

Rabinovich rolls his bright green eyes. "This is impossible," he mutters.

Civilian life has been an adjustment for Rabinovich. Just two months ago, he was Israel's ambassador to Washington, shielded by aides and sought by diplomats and reporters. Today, he is back at Tel Aviv University, far from the office he occupied during his last job at campus - rector of the university from 1990 to 1992.

These days, the 54-year-old Rabinovich works largely alone. He is starting the first of two books on Syria that will draw on nearly four years of negotiations with Syria and a close relationship with Yitzhak Rabin.

The project won't be easy. Rabinovich acknowledges that he fails to understand a key portion of the behavior of Syrian President Hafez Assad. Both Rabin and his successor, Shimon Peres, gave clear indications that Israel was prepared to stage "a significant withdrawal" from the Golan, using the previous government's codewords for a full pullback.

And still, with weeks to go until the Israeli elections, Assad didn't budge.

He wanted a withdrawal to the June 4, 1967, line that came within meters of Lake Kinneret rather than the line further east Israel determined was the international border.

"There are aspects of Syrian behavior in this period that remain a riddle," he says. "Assad wasn't in a hurry. He doesn't hurry to anything."

In 1992, Rabin might have begun his job as prime minister with a pledge never to return the Golan, but by the end of the year, Rabinovich says, the new premier "accepted the need for significant withdrawal."

Israel's Labor-led government relayed this message to Assad via the US and within weeks Syria agreed to direct negotiations with Israel. The US became what diplomats term "a facilitator."

Even today, Rabinovich cannot point out what was agreed upon in the subsequent three and a half years of talks with Damascus. He seems to suggest, however, that the only thing Israel and Syria agreed to was Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

"A lot was said. None of it was in the way of commitments," he says.

"Assad said there was an accord on full withdrawal. This is not true. What we achieved was that in 1994-5, we had many understandings on the border."

But that's where it ended. The military chiefs of both Israel and Syria were far apart on the issue of security arrangements on the Golan, Rabinovich says.

"Assad did not want similar security arrangements in the Golan as in the Sinai," he says. "We argued six months about this."

The huge gaps also emerged in such issues as normalization. Assad's representatives said they accepted the principle of normalization and full diplomatic relations. But their interpretation of these terms questioned their sincerity toward genuine reconciliation.

"Assad wanted an accord where he demanded full withdrawal and would give in return formal diplomatic ties, normalization and modest security arrangements," Rabinovich says.

"He solved the problem of domestic opposition to normalization when he agreed to something that was less than what we have with Egypt."

"So, there would be limited Israeli tourism. Assad's way to cope was to give in to the principle of tourism but to limit the number greatly."

The Syrians disappointed the Rabin and Peres governments in the Israeli demand for confidence-building measures to convince Israelis of Damascus's sincerity for peace. Formally, Syria agreed to several unprecedented steps. Israeli citizens were invited to Syria; Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara gave an interview to Israeli state television.

"Nobody expected that Assad would fly to Jerusalem," Rabinovich says. "We lowered our sights. Shara gave an interview to Israeli television. But was he nice. MK [Abdul Wahab] Darawish came to Syria but he couldn't come on an Israeli passport."

"The failure by Syria to engage in public diplomacy sent a message to the Israeli public that this wasn't working. This was used effectively by the Third Way and the Nation with the Golan movement."

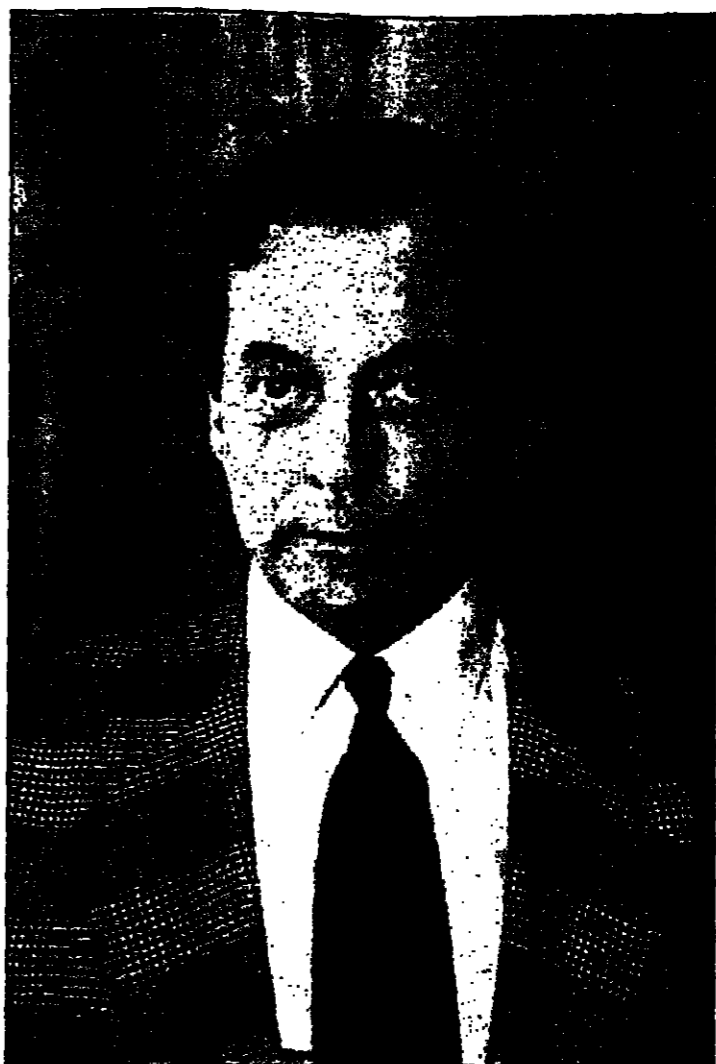
As prime minister, Peres thought that Assad could be wooed by the smell of American money - the promise of massive funding to rebuild Syria's deteriorating economy. That didn't work either.

"Peres introduced the economic aspect," Rabinovich says. "His people and maybe the Americans erred in thinking that the economic aspects would soften the Syrian position on military arrangements. The Syrians kept to their same positions."

In the end, Rabinovich says, Peres gave up and decided to call early elections. In retrospect, the former ambassador says, Assad couldn't run the last mile to complete a peace accord.

"It was a big plate to chew," he says. "Assad likes to go slow and in incremental steps. Syria is not Egypt and Assad is not [the late Egyptian president Anwar] Sadat. What we couldn't accept is that Assad wanted more than Sadat and wanted to give less than the Egyptian leader."

"One of the things we kept saying to Syria was that the window of opportunity is now. You



Rabinovich has four years of negotiations with Syria to draw upon for his new book. (David Rubinger)

have to take advantage of it." But Rabinovich does not believe that Assad was duping Israel.

He says the Syrian ruler was ready to sign a peace treaty with Israel, albeit on his terms.

This assessment is in contrast with several leading analysts of Syria, including Ephraim Karsh in Israel and Daniel Pipes of the US, who assert that Assad's strategy was to benefit from the participation of the Middle East peace process without ever intending to conclude an accord with Israel.

Rabinovich, however, does not dismiss concerns that Assad might have changed his tactics from negotiations to war in the wake of the election of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He urges the new government not to negotiate with Syria under the pressure of war.

"Assad uses the threat of war as a means of pressure," he says. "Israel has to increase its intelligence efforts. But as for diplomacy, you can't conduct negotiations under the threat of military action. It's important to neutralize the talks from the military threats."

Rabinovich says he supports Netanyahu's insistence that full withdrawal from the Golan. He says Assad has to understand that he is dealing with a new government who has not inherited any commitments regarding

the Golan. "The government has the right to take a different line," he says. But it's the obligation of the government to think through the consequences of this. It would not be wise for the government to create a situation that leaves no room for negotiations."

Rabinovich does not share the dire consequences for Israel of a second term for US President Bill Clinton.

Several factors make up his assessment: Vice President Al Gore wants to run for president in 2000; Congress might remain in Republican hands; and Clinton himself has never thought of confronting Israel the way his predecessor George Bush did.

"I think Clinton's basic attitude will remain the same but his priorities can change," Rabinovich says.

"I don't think there will be an abandonment by the US. But Washington is a city of one crisis and it can't deal with two foreign policy crises at the same time."

Rabinovich is vague over his plans. He is on sabbatical and he will be busy writing two books over the next year. "I lecture a lot," he says. "I am happily busy."

But the man who refers to himself as a cold fish will not rule out a political career. "It's something I have to think through," he says.

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Should Jews actively seek Christian converts?

A proposal by an American Conservative rabbi to promote conversion among non-Jews has generated a storm of reactions. Tom Tugend reports from Los Angeles

A LEADING Conservative rabbi has challenged the Jewish people to overcome a centuries-old bias by actively seeking converts among non-Jews. The spiritual leader of Valley Beth Shalom in Encino, California, cited the attraction of Judaism as a world religion, its ancient tradition of proselytizing, and the fact that conversion of non-Jewish spouses in mixed marriages is the surest guarantor of producing children and grandchildren with strong Jewish identities.

The time has come, says Rabbi Harold Schulweis, for Jews to emulate the missionary practice of their ancient forebears through "a national or international Jewish movement to educate, invite and embrace non-Jews into the fold."

The message is not new - it has been advocated by the Reform movement for many years. But the stature of the new messenger assures it is given a serious hearing among Jewish, as well as Christian, theologians and thoughtful lay leaders. Schulweis is one of the most influential and innovative voices in American Judaism - a preacher, writer, religious and social activist, and creative thinker.

In a sermon to his congregation, Schulweis marshaled some of his key arguments for conversionary outreach to unchurched and unaffiliated Gentiles:

"Judaism is a universal religion, whose intellectual freedom, remarkable common sense, emphasis on good deeds, rather than doctrine, and focus on family is attractive to many searching non-Jews."

"A strong outreach effort to non-Jews will lead born Jews to re-examine their faith and give them a new pride in their religion. In mixed marriages, conversion of non-Jewish spouses will greatly increase the odds that their children and grandchildren will be raised as Jews."

Schulweis says that he has met

many non-Jews "who hunger for an authentic, moving and relevant faith... One would expect that a community that is so concerned with its own perpetuity would reach out actively to embrace these people, who quite seriously enjoy and are sustained by Jewish wisdom and faith."

SCHULWEIS'S ideas have faced a widely disparate reception. A sample of responses to Schulweis's proposal showed three general types of reaction: strong disagreement on religious grounds, mainly by Orthodox rabbis; disagreement for pragmatic reasons by some Conservative and communal spokesmen; and warm endorsement by other Conservative rabbis and a Reform leader. In addition, Christian spokesmen were also supportive, but with an undercurrent of ambivalence.

Rabbi Raphael Butler, national executive vice president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations (Orthodox Union), cited the widely held argument that Jews must first focus on the indifferent and unaffiliated in their own ranks, before trying to attract non-Jews. "Millions of Jews would respond to an aggressive outreach campaign, while proselytizing non-Jews would be seen as a sign of weakness," said Butler. "Why should anyone want to join a group that can't hold on to its own members?"

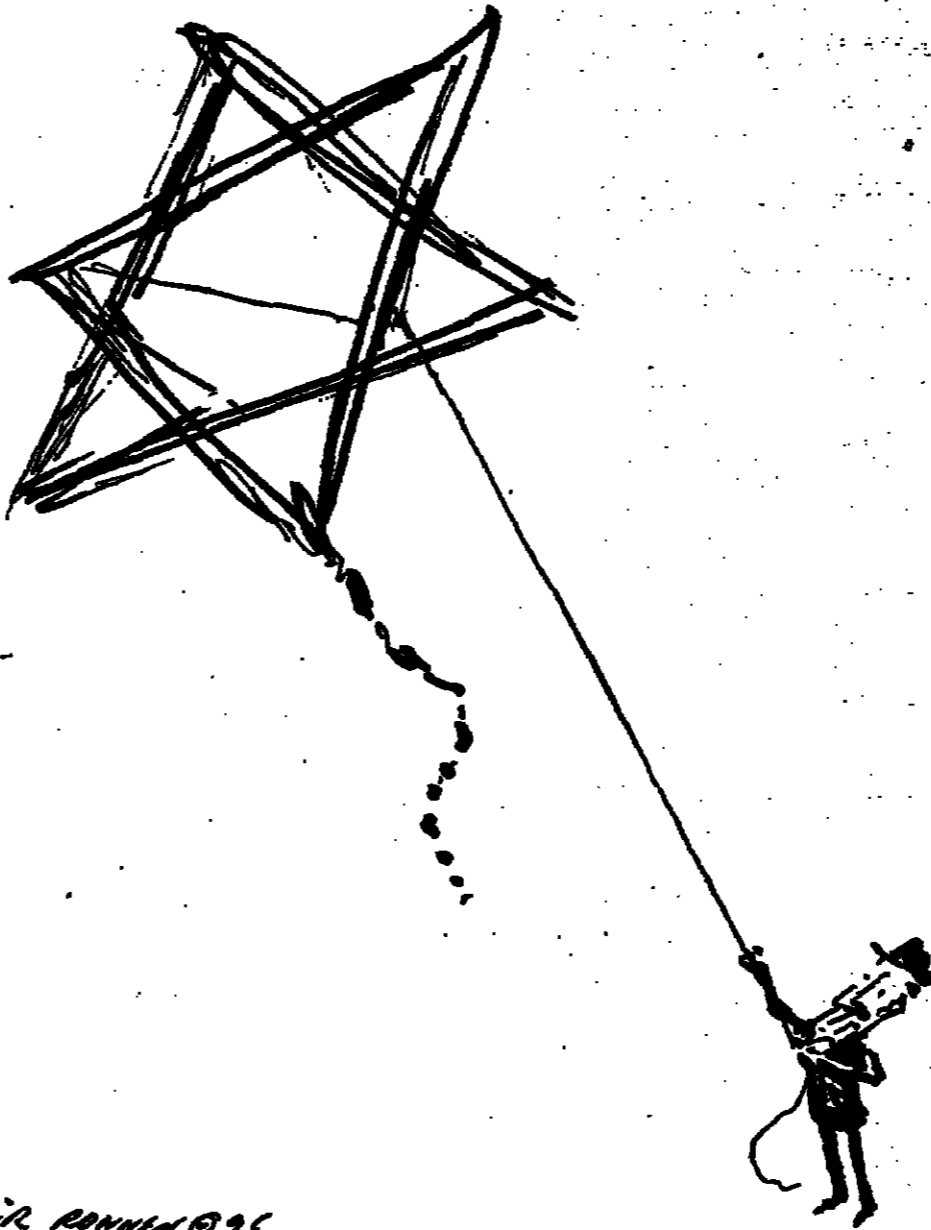
"While we embrace those who seriously commit to Judaism, it's a leap to say that therefore we should proselytize."

Rabbi Nachum Sauer, head of graduate Judaic Studies at the Yeshiva of Los Angeles, said that Halacha requires that would-be converts be discouraged and "pushed away," rather than courted. He asserted that anyone converted under Conservative (or Reform) auspices would not be halachically recognized, because "98 percent of such converts"

would lack the serious and overwhelming commitment demanded by Orthodox practice.

Sauer maintained that Conservative and Reform leaders sought converts mainly to make up for former congregants lost to secularism, and that their converts would reap "the retribution, but not the reward" of being Jewish.

Rabbi William Lebeau, dean of the rabbinical school of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York - the primary Conservative educational institution - agreed with other rabbis that Judaism has much to offer the world, but claimed: "We have to decide whether to use our limited resources and energy on reaching non-Jews, or within



MEIR RONEN © 96

the Jewish community, including the intermarried." He indicated that he himself, along with most Conservative leaders, would come down on the side of focusing on meeting the religious and spiritual needs within the Jewish community first.

Carrying the thread of Lebeau's pragmatic argument one step further, Dr. Steven Bayme of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), argued that previous "missions to the Gentiles," particularly by the Reform movement, "never went anywhere." Bayme, who heads AJC's Jewish communal affairs department, said that the initial Reform assumptions projected that one out of every three

non-Jews in mixed marriages could be converted to Judaism.

However, currently only one in 14 becomes a convert, according to Bayme, who said that "the real tragedy is that after 'marketing outreach,' conversion is actually dropped."

One reason for this phenomenon, he said, may be that mixed marriages, with both spouses retaining their original religions, are now so common and accepted that there is no pressure on either side to convert.

Well-known author and lecturer, and assistant to the chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Rabbi David Wolpe, whose latest book appropriately bears the title

Why Be Jewish?, commented that "people increasingly see [conversionary outreach] as a worthy mission, especially when you see how much thoughtfulness and devotion has been brought to Judaism by those who have converted."

Wolpe added one caution: "We must be sure to seek out those who are serious, those who will enrich rather than dilute Judaism. We have too many problems to court dilettantes."

ONE SELF-IMPOSED obstacle to Schulweis's proposal is the belief among many Jews that their heritage is transmitted by "biology rather than ideology"; that an indifferent or "bad" Jew is still

more Jewish than a committed proselyte. Add the suspicion that there must be something wrong, or at least an ulterior motive, in anyone voluntarily becoming a Jew, and you get such expressions as "A Yid bleib a Yid und a goy bleib a goy" - a Jew remains a Jew and a Gentile remains a Gentile.

Such an attitude, says Schulweis, "portrays a profound doubt and ignorance of the value of Judaism" by many Jews, and "an inner insecurity with our faith."

However, in explaining Jewish values and beliefs to non-Jews, the born Jew will be forced to define the essence of his religion to himself.

The concept of Judaism as a missionary faith is deeply rooted in Jewish tradition and theology, according to Schulweis.

The prophet Isaiah declared that God had "created and appointed you a covenant people, a light for the nations," and the Talmud proclaims that "God exiled the Jews from their homeland for one reason - to increase the number of converts."

Jews were extremely active and successful proselytizers throughout the Roman Empire, until such activities were made a capital crime and forcibly suppressed when Christianity became the state religion.

Conversions may have the biggest impact in mixed marriages. According to surveys and studies, when a non-Jewish spouse does not convert, the couple's children are almost sure to marry non-Jews, assuring assimilation in a couple of generations.

By contrast, those marriages in which the Gentile spouse converts score higher in almost every aspect of Jewish identity and religious practice than couples consisting of two born Jews, says Schulweis.

Senior Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin of Stephen S. Wise Temple, whose Reform congregation counts as converts 10-20 percent of its 3,000-family membership, gave a particularly enthusiastic response to Schulweis's proposal for this exact reason.

"It has been my experience," said Zeldin, "that those converts who become active in the congregation are more diligent than 'normal' Jews."

Rabbi A. James Rudin, whose job as interreligious affairs director of AJC brings him into daily contact with leaders of other religions, drew a distinction between "targeting" a specific group for conversion, and bearing "witness" to our faith.

He said that Jewish "witnessing," with the aim of attracting converts, would not elicit "a lot of negative reaction by Christian churches."

Given the diversity of religious expression in America, Rudin believes that "we would be remiss if we did not bear witness to our faith," adding that "if Jews can die for Judaism, why can't they live for it?"

His AJC colleague, Steven Bayme, disagreed. Even if the conversion mission is aimed at unchurched and unaffiliated Christians, as Schulweis specifies, Bayme has his reservations. The Southern Baptists, in recently invigorating their drive to convert Jews, also maintained they were targeting only "unengaged" Jews, said Bayme. "A Jewish mission to the unchurched is a mirror image of the Southern Baptist campaign," he added. "If Jews protest the Baptist drive, then they have a reciprocal obligation not to seek converts among the Christian community."

Bayme's concerns are not shared by Dr. Eugene Fisher, the US Catholic Church's point man for ecumenical affairs.

If unaffiliated Christians can be reached by a Jewish outreach mission, Fisher's reaction would be "step right up and bring these people to God."

On the demographic level, it is obvious that the massive Catholic Church can more easily afford the loss of some members than the dwindling, Holocaust and assimilation-haunted, Jewish people. "There are 60 million Roman Catholics in the United States and one billion in the world," said Fisher. "So the effect of losing some adherents is different for us than for the Jews. The story would be different, say, if in Israel they tried to convert Catholics, where they are a small minority."

HOWEVER, Schulweis warns against seeking converts for the sake of replacing our demographic losses.

"Those who come to us must not be seen as surrogates of our Holocaust losses or as replacements for those who have left us. They must not be used as means to ends, but as ends in themselves," Schulweis says.

He is not too sanguine that this advice will be heeded. "The conversionary movement will be successful, but for the wrong reasons," he notes.

Ideally, he believes, "Jewish mission means to act out our belief that we are not a parochial, sectarian, ethnic clan but a people whose faith and wisdom have endured for four millennia."

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תורה ודעה

Hebron: A missed chance to test Palestinian goodwill

I have been in Hebron only a few times in recent years, and each time I had trouble deciding what struck me most about its Jews - their extravagant faith, their dumb courage, or their nasty belligerence toward their Arab neighbors.

In the end, I suppose the three go together. It takes faith to have the courage to expose yourself and your children to daily danger in a place where you aren't welcome; and if a belligerent nationalism wasn't your reason for moving there in the first place, it is more than likely to be a consequence of it.

I admired and was repelled by them. I felt they were doing something important by being in Hebron, a city Jews should live in as a matter of principle; and I felt they were behaving disgracefully toward their Palestinian neighbors behind the shield of the Israeli army and doing all they could to make bad relations even worse.

Had anyone asked me, I would have suggested solving the problem of Hebron differently from what is being attempted now. I would have suggested turning the entire city, including its Jewish quarter with all its inhabitants, to the control of the Palestinian Authority - and making it clear to the Palestinians that the outcome of the peace process depended on not a hair of these inhabitants' heads being unjustly touched.

Once said as much to a friend. He looked at me as you look at someone who has told a tasteless joke. Still, I meant it seriously.

After all, one of the things that were told about the Oslo agreement

AGAINST THE GRAIN
HILLEL HALKIN

when it was signed, and that is still true about it, is that it represents a trial period in which Jews and Arabs have a chance to see how they get along when they share this country between them, so that when it is time for a final settlement, they will have had some practical experience on which to base their positions.

Presumably, one of the things each side will want to know is how its members fare under the rule of the other. For the Jews, this question mark is larger than for the Arabs. For better or worse, the Palestinians have a pretty good idea by now of what it is like to be governed by Israelis, whether as enfranchised citizens or as the subjects of military occupation. No Israeli Jew, however, has had the reverse experience. We can speculate what it might be like, but we honestly don't know.

This is far from a theoretical issue. In the final-status negotiations, Israel will have to take one of three possible stands on the question of the Jewish settlements. It can decide to liquidate those of them that end up on the Palestinian side of the border; it can insist that these settlements stay where they are as Israeli-ruled and -protected enclaves in Palestinian territory; it can try to negotiate their remaining in place under Palestinian jurisdiction.

The approach chosen will have fateful implications for other Israeli negotiating positions, for internal Israeli politics, and for the success of the negotiations themselves.

There is no indication so far that either the Rabin-Peres or Netanyahu governments have thought seriously about this. And in order to do so it would be helpful to have some empirical data on just what happens when Jews do live in Palestinian-controlled areas. Hebron would have been a good place to start.

"Hebron?" I hear a laugh. "Where scores of Jews were killed in the pogrom of 1929? Where the settlers are a more nasty militant bunch, and Jewish-Arab relations more poisonously exacerbated, than anywhere else in the territories? Where the Palestinians are just waiting to get even and to avenge the Baruch Goldstein massacre? You're kidding, aren't you? You're kidding?"

Well, yes: it would be more convenient to stage such an experiment in north Tel Aviv or Herzliya Pituah, where there is a high percentage of Meretz voters. Unfortunately, however, those Israelis most sympathetic to the Palestinian Authority do not live in the Palestinian territories, and those living in the territories are not highly sympathetic toward the Palestinian Authority. There's not much we can do about that.

"But Hebron? Couldn't you find a better place?"

Probably not. Hebron would have had distinct advantages. In the first place, there are barely 500 Jews in it, surrounded on all sides by 150,000 Palestinians; nowhere else in the territories does a separate, Israeli-administered enclave make

so little sense or cause such disruption in the Palestinians' lives.

Secondly, as the current drawn-out negotiations over the city demonstrate, there is in any case no way of assuring the settlers' safety without the Palestinian Authority's cooperation and good will.

And thirdly, had the experiment failed, its result - the evacuation of Hebron's settlers - would have been what half the Israeli public wants to see happen anyway and a small price for a valuable lesson.

"But the settlers would have made it fail."

Perhaps, almost certainly were it their aim to prove that Jews cannot live under their aegis. But there is no evidence to date that this is their aim, and if it isn't, their motivations to protect Jewish lives entrusted to their responsibility would have been great.

Who's to say they could not have succeeded as well as or better than the IDF? So far, apart from last September's flare-up, the Palestinian police's record in ensuring the safety of Israelis visiting or traveling in its domain has been good.

In the final analysis, if we and the Palestinians are to coexist in some measure of harmony, there must be certain symmetries between us - one of which, ideally, is a situation in which, just as Arabs can live in Israel without fearing for their lives or persons, so Jews can live in Palestine.

We've missed a chance, highly problematic and intriguing, to find out if this is possible before final-status negotiations begin.

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- NIS 150 Yoram and Mira Ra'anana, Moshav Beit Meir.
- NIS 100 The Couriel Family, J'im. Miriam Schmerl, J'im.
- NIS 50 Anon.
- NIS 36 Happy birthday to Steven Kolt - with love, Frances, Gal and Noey, J'im/Melbourne.
- NIS 18 In honor of my new Grandpa Lennie. I love you! - Sarah Weisser, Mitze Ramon.
- \$1,500 Samuel and Jean Rothberg Charitable Fund (via PEP).
- \$100 Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Kolko, Chicago. Rodney de Leon, Middlebury, CT. Natalie and Mummy Charach, W. Bloomfield, MI.
- \$25 To All - A Happy Hanukkah! Renee and Sol Fromer, Jericho, NY. Sisterhood of New Hope Congregation, Cincinnati.
- \$21 Louise Leitman, Merion Station, PA.
- \$20 Jose Nakayama, Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- \$18 Sylvia Rozman, Forest Hills, NY.
- \$10 In memory of my beloved father, Reuben Goldman - Dvorah Kolko, Rochester, NY. Eliss Rosen, Brooklyn. Shechana Herzog, Newburgh, IL.
- Can. \$50 Samuel and Etelka Reisz, Etobicoke, Can.

WELCOME HOME FUND

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 - NIS 180 Yoram and Mira Ra'anana, Moshav Beit Meir.
 - NIS 18 In honor of the first anniversary of Bernice Belfer Weiss and Lennie Mandel in Cleveland, Ohio - your family in Mitze Ramon.
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'Courtesy of the heart'

COMMON courtesy, once considered an inborn British trait, seems to have become synonymous with Americanism.

"Oh, you must be from America," many a native or veteran Israeli is likely to tell you when they catch you observing certain basic courtesies in the queue for the bus or the store's checkout clerk.

Some people are revolted by what they consider such "false" American courtesies as, "Have a good day."

As for the English, a London-born colleague who has often been "back home" tells me that among the things that went with the loss of India were - the famous - British "understatement and courtesy."

"It is decades, she says, since people stopped moving silently and courteously in turn onto the bus. A blatant example that she saw, one she says occurs commonly in some form: a young mother is trying to mount a bus, leading a four-year-old child with one hand and holding a baby in the other arm. One person mounting the bus says to her, "Oh, it must be difficult for you," but neither he nor anyone else helps her.

My colleague, who has been living here 25 years, says that in a similar situation in Jerusalem the young mother is likely to be helped beyond her need by all those in the queue next to her and those sitting in the bus's front seats.

In general she says, Israelis and Americans (she recently toured the US for several weeks, her first visit there) compare most favorably with the English.

A VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

is used in at least three different senses. Here are some examples:

Rabbi Yohanan teaches: "It is *derech erez* [natural] for the young to speak poetry, adults to speak wise sayings, and the old to speak nonsense" (*Shir Hashirim Rabba* 1:10).

Rabbi Gamliel son of Rabbi Yehuda Hnasasi teaches: "Torah [study] combined with *derech erez* [a calling by which one earns a livelihood] is a good thing" (*Avot* 2:2).

Sometimes it is an euphemism for sexual relations: "And God saw our plight" (*Deuteronomy* 26:7) - this refers to abstinence from *derech erez* [the forced separation of Jewish husbands and wives by the Egyptians, to prevent them from propagating] (the Passover Haggada and *Yoma* 74b).

Most commonly, however, both in the sources and in common parlance *derech erez* means civility, courtesy, etiquette, respect, sensitivity, moral conduct, modesty, common decency, "natural morality."

Two whole Talmudic tractates, *Derech Eretz Rabba* and *Derech Eretz Zuta*, are devoted to the subject. Not one aspect of human conduct is not covered in these tractates and in other teachings scattered throughout the basic Jewish legal and ethical works from the Tanach on. Here are a few examples:

Rabbi Yishmael son of Nahman teaches: *Derech erez* preceded the Torah by 26 generations [the time between Creation and the giving of the Torah] (*Vayikra Rabba* 9:3; *Seder Eilulim Rabba* 1). The Hassidic leader Rabbi Melech Mendel Morgenstern of Kotzk commented: Just as a book's preface indicates something about the book's contents and quality, so do you get an inkling about a person's substance and quality from the level of his *derech erez*, as we are taught: "*Derech erez* preceded [the preface to Torah]" (*Emet Mikozev Tizmah*).

Concerning those who hoard fruit [for the purpose of price gouging], overcharge, and cheat in their weights and measures, God swears: "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds..." (Amos 8:4-11; *Derech Eretz Rabba* 2).

Just as a *talmid hacham* [Torah scholar] is distinguished by his wisdom and knowledge, so should he be distinctive in the high quality of his conduct, in the way he eats and drinks, conducts his sexual relations with his wife, attends to his excretory functions, speaks, walks, dresses, conducts his affairs... in all of these his conduct should be of the finest (*Maimonides, Mishneh Torah, Hilechot Deot* 5).

Seven traits mark the *golem* (boor) and the *hacham* (wise man). The *hacham* is silent in the presence of those wiser than he, does not interrupt his interlocutor, is not hasty to reply, asks relevant questions and replies to the point, puts first things first and last things last, when he didn't hear something clearly he says so, and he concedes the truth. The *golem* does exactly the opposite (*Avot* 5:9 and *Derech Eretz Zuta* 7).

Shmuel teaches: It is forbidden to deceive and mislead people, even idolaters (*Hullin* 94a).

We are not to hate Edomites for refusing us passage through their land on our way to the Promised Land (*Numbers* 20:14-21), because Edom is our brother (descendants of Esau, Jacob's twin brother); nor are we to hate the Egyptians who enslaved us, for we were guests in their land (*Deuteronomy* 23:8).

Rabbi Tarfon and the Sages debated whether study or action is greater. Rabbi Tarfon preferred study; Rabbi Akiva, study. The assembly decided unanimously that study is great insofar as it leads to action.

They also taught: Those who eat in the marketplace are behaving like dogs, and may not serve as witnesses before the courts.

Bar Kappara taught: Have nothing to do with anyone who has not studied Torah and Mishna and lacks *derech erez* (*Kiddushin* 40b-41a).

Rabbi Hiyya bar Abba taught in Rabbi Yohanan's name: A *talmid hacham* who has a stain on his garment deserves death (*Shabbat* 114a).

THE ABOVE are only a minuscule sampling of the galaxy of Jewish teachings concerning *derech erez* that far, far too many of us ignore far too often.

GOETHE SPEAKS of the "courtesy of the heart" [that] is akin to love. Out of it arises the purest courtesy in the outward behavior" (*Elective Affinities*).

I understand him to be referring to either or a combination of two sets of traits emphasized in Jewish tradition. One comes under the rubric *derech erez* and the other is contained in the saying of the Talmudic Sages attributed to King David: A Jew should be identifiable by three traits: compassion, modesty, and loving-kindness (*Yevamot* 79a).

Derech erez means literally "[the] way of [the] world" - i.e. common practice, or the natural, normal, conventional way of doing things. But it

Relationship between generations

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHILOMO RISKIN

"Abraham was old, well-stricken in age..." (Gen. 24:1)

THE relationship between Abraham and Isaac is one of the most clearly defined in the Bible. Indeed, the bond is attested to in the "binding," wherein it is twice mentioned: "And the two of them walked together" (Gen. 22:19).

Their relationship included a remarkable physical resemblance. The reason for this harks back to Isaac's birth, when Abraham was nearly 100 years old. It is certainly probable that every gossip would hint that a younger, more potent man must have impregnated Sarah. Hence, suggests the Midrash, God created Isaac as an exact double of Abraham, so that no one could imagine that anyone else was the father.

But this very similarity is the basis for one of the strangest comments in the Talmud. On the verse quoted above, "Abraham was old, well-stricken in age..." our Sages insist that at this point old age is introduced to the world. They explain that people seeking out Abraham would address Isaac, and those seeking out Isaac would approach Abraham. This confusion caused Abraham to ask God to make him look old.

Why did Abraham go out of his way to plead for old age? What's wrong with being mistaken for your son? Isn't that the dream of every aging parent?

I believe that hidden between the lines of this midrash is the dialectic which must be expressed between father and son: Despite their desire

for closeness, father must appear different from son so that he can receive the filial obligations due to him as transmitter of life and tradition; and son must appear different from father so that he understands his obligation to add to the wisdom of the past.

The first idea is quite understandable, rooted in the commandment to honor one's elders. In fact, the last will and testament of Rabbi Yehuda the Pious (1148-1217) forbids anyone from taking a spouse with the same first name as his/her parent, in order to avoid the impression that a child would ever address a parent by his/her first name. We may be close to our parents, but they are not to be confused with our buddies.

The second notion is no less significant. Abraham is also pleading with God that Isaac's outward appearance testify to his being a unique individual in his own right.

An illustration of the importance of a dynamic and symbiotic relationship between the generations can be seen in the following Talmudic passage:

In discussing the importance of teaching Torah to children and grandchildren, our Sages insist that teaching your own child Torah is equivalent to teaching all your child's unborn children as well. (B.T. *Kiddushin* 30a) Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi adds that teaching one's grandchild Torah is equivalent to having received it at Sinai.

The idea is magnificently clear:

Our parents are our link to Sinai. When the younger generation learns Torah from the previous one, it is as though they were receiving the words from Sinai.

In that same passage, however, Rabbi Hiyya bar Abba makes a critical word change in Rabbi Yehuda's interpretation. Rabbi Hiyya states: "Whoever hears Torah from his grandchild [not whoever teaches his grandchild] is like one who has received it from Sinai."

What does it mean for a grandchild to teach his grandfather Torah? Aside from making the grandfather proud, doesn't this tell us that not only do grandfathers pass down the tradition to their children and grandchildren, but grandchildren pass up the tradition to their forebears?

Today we marvel at the return of the younger generation to the traditions, with grandchildren literally teaching their grandparents. But this might also be alerting us to additional insights.

One of the most puzzling Talmudic passages describes how, when Moses ascended to receive the Torah from the Almighty, the master of all prophets found God fixing crowns (*agnin*) to the letters of the Torah. (B.T. *Menachot* 29b). When Moses asked about their significance, God answered that the day would come when a great Sage named Rabbi Akiva would derive mountains of law from each curcious.

Moses asked to see and hear this rabbinic giant, and the Almighty

immediately transported him to Rabbi Akiva's academy. Moses listened, but felt ill at ease; the arguments used by Rabbi Akiva were so complex that they eluded the understanding of the great prophet. It was only when a disciple asked for Rabbi Akiva's source, and the Sage replied that it was a law given to Moses at Sinai, that the prophet felt revived.

Now, how is it possible that Moses would not understand a Torah lecture? The answer lies within the very text of the Talmudic teaching. Moses was given the foundation of all future teachings: The biblical words and their crowns, the fundamental laws and the methods of explication and extrapolation (hermeneutic principles). Rabbi Akiva, in a later generation, deduced laws for his day predicated upon the laws and principles which Moses had received.

This is the legitimate march of Torah which Maimonides documents in *Introduction to the Interpretation of the Mishna*; this is the methodology by which modern-day Responsa deal with issues such as electricity on the Sabbath, brain death and in-vitro fertilization. The eternity of Torah demands both the fealty of children to the teachings of their parents, and the opportunity to build on that teaching. Both aspects bring Sinai into our present-day experience.

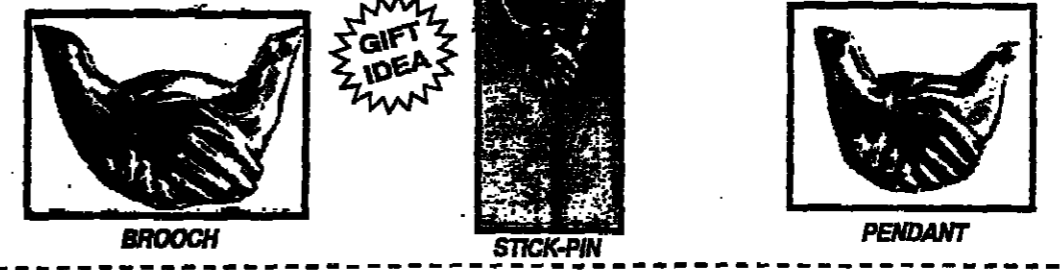
Only if sons understand the similarities and fathers leave room for the differences, can the generations become truly united in Jewish eternity.

Shabbat Shalom

"Hope" The Jewel of Peace

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Beautiful gifts FOR HIM and FOR HER - from the "Hope" collection by the Jerusalem artist Elyana Cohen Ashbey. The dove, symbol of peace from time immemorial, is depicted in a handshake - one hand in 24 carat gold, the other in 925 sterling silver. These beautiful items express the artist's hope for a better future for all peoples of the world.



TO: c/o The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000

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- Stick Pin NIS 59.00

* Please add NIS 15.00 for door-to-door delivery (where available) in Israel, or overseas registered airmail.

Enclosed is my check payable to The Jerusalem Post, or credit card details:

Visa Mastercard Diners

Number _____ Exp. _____

Name _____

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City _____ Code _____ ID No. _____

Tel. (day) _____ Signature _____

Wanted - but no reward stated

Left-wing fascism, Orwellian style

GRAPEVINE
GREER FAY CASHMAN

THE FACE on the "Wanted" poster pasted on Jerusalem billboards is that of Justice Minister-designate Tzahi Hanegbi. Unlike his predecessor Ya'acov Ne'eman, Hanegbi is not suspected of obstructing justice. But his old friends who stood firm with him when he vehemently protested the dismantling of Yamit are perplexed about his silence on the Hebron issue. The lion, it seems, has become a lamb.

VETERAN US supporter of pro-Israel causes Sam Rothberg apparently never tires of giving. At a ceremony last week at the Hebrew University, Rothberg, in conjunction with The Soldiers' Welfare Association presented fifty \$1,000 Yitzhak Rabin memorial scholarships to young men and women who have just completed their compulsory military service. Scholarships to the value of \$130,000 were distributed by the association over the past year, announced chairman Rami Dotan, and next year 75 Rabin scholarships will be distributed. Had he not been felled by an assassin's bullet, Rabin would have celebrated his 75th birthday in March 1997.

PROFESSIONAL considerations were temporarily cast aside by doctors Yvonne and Chaim Heitner when they hosted the Jerusalem College of Technology's Interactive Forum on Torah, Technology and Science. There were calories galore in the wide selection of delicious cakes that were served, and most of the sweet-toothed guests obviously left their counters at home.

A MEMBER of the Jordanian royal family graced the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Jerusalem this week - albeit briefly. Al Sharif Zeid H. Nasser, who came to take possession of 540 dunams of land over which he had been negotiating with Israel for years, celebrated his success by handing over the title deeds to the Moslem Waqf. The Jordanian royal spent well over a month in different parts of the country, and wound up his visit in Jerusalem.

FREQUENT FLYER. Rabbi Shlomo Riskin may have to transfer some of his custom away from his regular travel agent to Efrat Tours, the first Ministry of



Actress Kathleen Turner walks with Peres Peace Institute head Uri Savir before his speech at the Cameri Theater yesterday.

Tourism-approved travel agency in Judea and Samaria. Proprietors Ofra Nir, Michelle Amram, Esther Solomon and Scholmit Rosenfeld have set up shop in the Efrat Commercial Center, not far from Riskin's yeshiva. Guests who attended the festive opening last Friday quipped that with Riskin's business alone, the venture will be financially viable.

SOME OF the guests introduced to Bahai ambassador Rick Miller at the Georgian dinner at Belgium House enthused about their last visit to the Bahamas, and Miller diplomatically ignored the gaffe. Belgium House, the hospitality center of the Hebrew University's Givat Ram, campus has taken on a Georgian identity rooted in the origins of the new management of its catering services run by Dr. Uri Bar-Moshe and Moti Levy.

Young women in Georgian national costume greeted guests at the door, and the Kfir

Georgian dance group provided most of the evening's entertainment. Among those sampling the Georgian cuisine were former ambassador to Greece Nissim Yaish and his wife Shulamith, the Jerusalem public relations liaison to the World WIZO executive, Israel Land Development Company chairman Shalom Doron and his wife Carmella, Jerusalem Chamber of Commerce President Joseph Perlman and his wife Yedida, industrialist Avner Peretz and several academics, among them Professor Yitzhak Pines chairman of the Science Ministry's National Council for Research and Development.

SAYING IT with flowers. A wedding and a family reunion are the outcome of a meeting in a florist's establishment. Beauty queen Kim Roslikov - is due to become Mrs. Zion Hava next Wednesday in a double celebration at Shefayim. Roslikov, 18, an immigrant from Russia, met

Hava, 31, three years ago in a flower shop. At that time, her name was Helena, but she reminded him so much of film star Kim Basinger that he persuaded her to drop the Helena in favor of Kim. Roslikov's parents, Lilliah and Vladimir, are divorced, and since coming to Israel Roslikov has had no contact with her father, who saw her on television when she came third in the Miss Europe Beauty Pageant and decided to find her. He too will be at the wedding.

FEW THINGS surprise as seasoned a politician as Shimon Peres. But when he discovered that Broadway star Mike Burstyn, currently appearing in Israel in the Yiddish production *A Hassene in sheet*, had been commissioned by the American Jewish Blind Society to record his book on the battle for peace, he was almost bowled over. Burstyn himself presented Peres with the non-commercial 24-record book for the blind which

had been produced with the permission of Peres's publishers Random House. Burstyn proposed a commercial version of the recording and received Peres's blessing.

INTERVIEWED BY Shelli Yachimovitch about the hue and cry over satirist GH Kopatch, Likud MK Reuven Rivlin said "there's one people of Israel, one Bible and one Kopatch." After all the fuss, the 27-year-old Kopatch's ratings should soar. Perhaps that's the secret of the ratings game.

IT'S ALL politics. Otherwise why would former Foreign Ministry director general and current Peres Peace Institute director Uri Savir be making an address at today's Cameri Theater meeting with noted American stage and screen actress Kathleen Turner? Tel Aviv mayor Roni Mile will also be there, but not in the interests of political balance. Mile, a former minister in a Likud-led government, also happens to be the chairman of the Cameri's board of directors.

AND SPEAKING of foreign stars, since it was hardly an immaculate conception, it's not surprising that the baby's father, Carlos Leon, wants visiting rights and a say in the upbringing of his daughter Lourdes. But mama Madonna doesn't want to know about Carlos, who used to be her fitness coach until he got her pregnant. The couple are at decidedly cross purposes.

FORMER CHILD star Brooke Shields, who after a long courtship recently became Mrs. Andre Agassi in a Las Vegas ceremony, can't afford to get pregnant. Shields has to practice birth control because the TV production company to which she is contracted will slap her with a law suit if she makes the progression into motherhood at any time within the next two years.

A NEW star on the pregnancy circuit is controversial entertainer Michael Jackson who according to the British scandal rag *News of the World* has fathered the expected son of nurse Debbie Rowe who cared for him when he was being treated for a skin complaint. The couple have been close for 15 years, but according to the report the pregnancy was achieved through artificial insemination, and if all goes well, Jackson will be a daddy in February.

THE WEEK THAT WAS
MICHAL YUDELMAN

ON the anniversary of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, many were perplexed by a large ad spread across the bottom of *Ha'aretz's* front page. It was a quote from the Book of Daniel, "Mene, mene, tekel upharsin" (Daniel 5:25). Attorney David Moshkevitz, who published the ad in the name of the Lo Nishkach ("We Shall Not Forget") activist group, said it was meant to recall the legendary "writing on the wall," and to signal, metaphorically, "that this government was born in sin and its days are numbered."



Sarid: Religious and haredi sector always takes and takes; Olmert: Capital isn't heading for a non-Zionist majority.

Moshkevitz, who after the assassination also published the controversial ad quoting again from the Bible "Hast thou murdered and taken possession," said yesterday that until those who took part in the incitement which led to Rabin's murder own up and ask for forgiveness, this government does not deserve to be in power. He said: "I expected at the very least that those involved, whose incitement, among other things, led to the murder, would be brought to justice. Instead, the inciters are today in the cabinet."

Moshkevitz said he expected that on the anniversary of the assassination, "the prime minister, who is supposed to be everyone's prime minister, instead of understanding the terrible plight into which the murder put at least half the nation, would acknowledge his part. But he gave some speech in which he quoted his books, and did not say the one word which could lead to national reconciliation that I think we all need." Moshkevitz said "since the awful murder of the prime minister I am gripped by disappointment. I feel that most of the public doesn't even begin to understand the significance of political murder in a democratic state."

Moshkevitz rejected criticism that his ad and statements about the government themselves constitute incitement. "George Orwell warned how reality may be reversed. In the end, the inciter and the incited are the righteous of the generation. During the three years of Rabin's government, a systematic incitement campaign was conducted against it, the likes of which was never run against a democratically elected government since the Weimar Republic. Did the right then call for national reconciliation? Only now that they're in power, suddenly there's a need to stop all attacks and reconcile with them. To call the Israeli left wing fascist - now that's really Orwellian."

GRAB, GRAB, GRAB - The Zameret report, recommending that Jerusalem's Bar-Ilan Street be closed to traffic during prayer times on Shabbat and holidays under certain conditions, aroused an inevitable political storm. Secular politicians rejected the recommendations, which they blasted as restricting the secular population's movement and lifestyle. Although the report conditions closing the street on providing alternative means of transportation for secular residents, the government and municipality have no intention of fulfilling this condition, *Ha'aretz* revealed this week.

But religious and haredi politicians also rejected the report, demanding that the street be completely shut down during weekends and holidays, not just in prayer times. They also completely rejected any suggestion of public transport running in Jerusalem on Shabbat or holidays.



"It all just goes to show that the religious and haredi sector always take and take, and everyone else has to make compromises and concessions to accommodate them," said M-coretz leader MK Yossi Sarid. He said the Zameret report is heading straight for the High Court of Justice where M-coretz will petition for a more satisfactory ruling. "It's grab, grab, grab as far as the haredim and religious are concerned."

Another MK asked why the most logical solution - keeping the street open at all times as in any modern democratic state - was not even discussed by the Zameret committee. "If the haredi people want peaceful coexistence, how about live and let live?" he asked.

Commenting on haredi violence in Jerusalem, committee chairman Dr. Zvi Zameret wrote in a letter accompanying the report: "I cannot accept anyone hiding behind the argument that the violence is uncontrollable and an act of children and deviant youths. We've learned from all experts that there is no society in which children and youths are more strictly under the control of the elders in authority than in haredi society."

Another serious message in the Zameret report was somewhat overshadowed by the political controversy. It warned that if the present trend of secular and traditional residents abandoning Jerusalem continues, the capital is destined to become a religious-majority city with a non-Zionist haredi city. In this case, the report said, "the city will be extinguished and collapse."

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert vehemently protested against this statement and charged those who keep saying Jerusalem is turning haredi with scaring away secular residents. MKs said Olmert has simply joined all those burying their heads in the sand and ignoring the exodus that already has hit Jerusalem or, as the Zameret report highlights, those now considering leaving the capital because of the increasingly suffocating haredi atmosphere there.

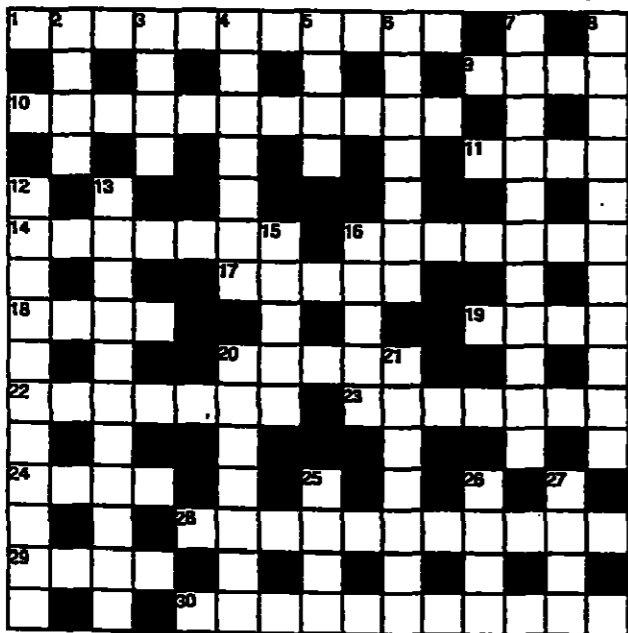
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

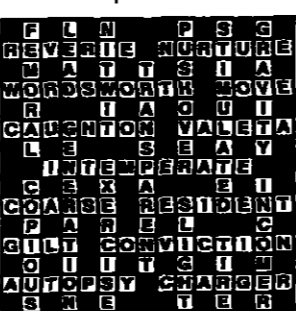
- 1 Wireless working as a means of dating (11)
- 9 Still, one seeks him in the Himalayas (4)
- 10 Young urchin gungleader, up in street, goes wild (11)
- 11 Lid for baked beans? (4)
- 14 Hold body of officers at front of ship (7)
- 16 Rom, alas, is a bad loser (4-3)
- 17 Merry hints given to youth-leader (5)
- 18 Sapper follows sun god? That's uncommon (4)
- 19 Try to pay attention (4)
- 20 Won over, would you say, by soft leather? (5)
- 22 Foot-faults in British leagues (7)
- 23 Bon vivant of heroic proportions by river... (7)
- 24...river of tiny sandbanks? (4)
- 25 Second eleven getting big wags? That's too heavy for Lord's ground! (5-6)
- 28 Unrepeatable opening of fairy-tale (4)
- 30 More adept in management, to get the upper hand (11)

DOWN

- 2 Fuzzy, losing head with fever (4)
- 3 Nuncio taking a letter inside (4)
- 4 Affront, we hear, side by side (7)
- 5 Spanish wine guys keep down? (4)
- 6 Lady VIP wandering about in lifeless fashion (7)
- 7 With reserves of fuel, R Cruise is transformed (11)
- 8 Mystic seeing stars (11)
- 12 Commendation of a quiet trial period (11)
- 13 Harshness of bureau holding most of file (11)
- 15 Hole in one? (5)
- 16 A team in reserve (5)
- 20 Refrain free to take a short drink (7)
- 21 Witty remark of soldier put up in English baby-carriage (7)
- 25 Eccentric knave, for example (4)
- 26 Spirit of Chinese lanterns? (4)
- 27 Considered to be matted fabric (4)



SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Daisy, 4 Beard, 10 Anemone, 11 Beard, 12 Molac, 13 Outch, 15 Vest, 17 Creed, 18 Allie, 22 Gore, 25 Gambles, 27 Ambit, 28 Beach, 30 Amnesty, 31 Ferry, 32 Liller.
DOWN: 2 Anzal, 3 Reserve, 5 Event, 6 Ruckling, 7 Gamma, 8 Mason, 9 Night, 14 Star, 15 Edge, 16 Bonanza, 20 Lizard, 21 Agave, 23 Orand, 24 Sags, 26 Lohar, 28 Baste.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Spendthrift (6)
- 4 Plant used in cooking (6)
- 8 Simmed (5)
- 9 Flood (7)
- 10 Acute (7)
- 11 Inactive (4)
- 12 Court (3)
- 14 Footwear (4)
- 15 Opinion (4)
- 18 Regret (3)
- 21 Too (4)
- 23 Custodian (7)
- 25 Endurance (7)
- 26 Sea (5)
- 27 Loaded (5)
- 28 Drawing (6)
- DOWN**
- 1 Beetle (6)
- 2 Extend (7)
- 3 Imperil (8)
- 4 Nipped (4)
- 5 Cede (5)
- 6 Respect (6)
- 7 Scatter (5)
- 13 Ignore (8)
- 16 Bessch (7)
- 17 Maiden (6)
- 19 Striking effect (5)
- 20 Soak (6)
- 22 Sodate (5)
- 24 Omen (4)

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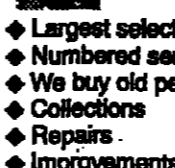


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SUNBIRDS AND MOONFLOWERS - and other Nature Notes. This is a very nicely produced collection of articles by D'vora Ben Shaul, which appeared over the years in The Jerusalem Post. A long-awaited gift for many regular readers of D'vora Ben Shaul's column, with drawings by Andrew Mann accompanying each article. Published by Hovev HaKolev, softcover, 145 pp.
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, November 8, 1996

13

Propper: Israeli companies competing in Egypt

DAVID HARRIS, GALIT LIPKIS BECK and HILLEL KUTTLER

ISRAELI companies are competing to buy state-owned Egyptian firms, Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper yesterday told those participating in next week's Cairo economic summit.

"Already today Israeli businesspeople are taking part in tenders in the framework of the Egyptian government's privatization plan," Propper said at a briefing for the participants.

Meanwhile, US undersecretary of commerce for international trade Stuart Eizenstat encouraged the Palestinian business community to attend the conference.

Eizenstat yesterday told a Washington Institute for Near East Policy forum that he was aware of the difficulties the closure in the territories has wrought on Palestinian commerce with Jordan and within the territories. But he maintained that Cairo is where improvements can be brought about.

"It will be missing an incredible opportunity not to be there," he said. "Indeed, what kind of signal would it be sending? And, second, it does afford the Palestinians and the Palestinian business community an opportunity to discuss in a broader forum the very problems that they're having, to turn atten-

tion to those problems.

"Nothing could be worse for the economic situation of the Palestinians than not to come, and I hope that that message will be heard loud and clear. It accomplishes nothing, it will be self-defeating and it will lose an enormous opportunity to demonstrate that the territories, likewise, are open for business and anxious to have foreign investment."

However, a number of Israeli companies have decided to stay away from the conference. The heads of the Israel Electric Corporation and Oil Refineries Ltd. have decided not to attend. Both say this has nothing to do with the political situation or National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's decision not to participate.

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan announced yesterday that he is sending three representatives to the summit.

Eitan made the decision after Ministry Director-General Danni Krichman received a letter from Egyptian deputy prime minister and Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Dr. Youssef Wally, condemning the Egyptian Federation of Chambers of Commerce decision to boycott the event.

Leviev set to win Africa shares

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

A MAJOR stake in Africa Israel Investments Ltd. will be sold to Israeli businessman Lev Leviev based on a company value of about \$400m., sources close to the negotiations said yesterday.

Parent company Africa Israel is expected to approve the sale at a board meeting Sunday. The bank is selling a block of shares representing about 46.58% of Africa Israel's share capital and some 54.2% of the voting rights in Africa. The sale is in line with the Banking Law which compels the bank to reduce its holding to 25%.

The 40-year-old, religious Leviev is considered one of the largest diamond merchants in the world, with factories throughout the country and abroad, including South Africa and Russia. In Israel he heads the LID diamond firm in partnership

with his brother-in-law. Since 1984 the Leviev family has received the excellent exporter certificate from the government. Bank Leumi is familiar with the family, with which it has been working for many years.

During the last few years the Leviev family has increased its involvement in the local real estate market, purchasing an office building from Shekem. An associate said Leviev's plan to increase his involvement in the real estate and hotel fields.

"He has very big plans for the company," said the associate. Leviev could not be reached yesterday for comment.

In the three days since the dead-

line to submit bids, the Bank Leumi negotiating team has been in intense negotiations with the two effective bidders, Leviev and a South African investment group. The team comprised Bank Leumi chairman Eitan Raff, head of subsidiaries Zvi Hiskovitz, accountant Gad Somech and bank lawyer Dafna Tal.

According to a source it was obvious from the start that Leviev would purchase the 62-year-old holding company. The South African group, made up of a public company and some of Africa Israel's minority shareholders, submitted a bid of about \$380m. During the course of negotiations, said the source, it became apparent that the South African group was not properly consolidated and had problems raising the money.

ILC shakes up management structure

DAVID HARRIS

ISRAEL Electric Corporation announced yesterday that all its departments will have to become profit-making business units, in a shake-up of the company's management structure.

The IEC board of directors unanimously approved a series of reforms during a meeting yesterday. It is the first time in 22 years the company will undergo such a large-scale change.

Since 1974 the number of customers has doubled, with production capability increasing fourfold.

The major proposal is to insist that all departments and regional sections become independently profitable. Until now the company's profitability has been gauged centrally on one balance sheet.

Units will be organized in parallel to the processing of electricity: production, transmission and distribution. The transmission element will be handled by a separate unit, which will also deal with sales and receiving electricity produced by private sector companies.

The company's senior management will be reduced from 16 to 6 people, each of whom will work at the level of deputy managing director.

In addition, 10 regional managers and department heads will be appointed to the board. Those appointed will be experts in engineering, computer science, economics and business management.

October bank provident fund redemptions at NIS 1.06b.

Post Business Staff

BANK provident funds suffered redemptions of NIS 1.06 billion in October compared with record high redemptions of NIS 3.51b. in the previous month.

Total withdrawals since the start of the year reach NIS 11.95b., according to figures from the five largest banks.

Banks said the drop in provident fund redemptions is due to the funds' improved yields since August.

The funds registered average positive real yields of about 1% in October. Among the largest funds, Bank Hapoalim's Gadish reported a real yield of 0.9% in October while Bank Leumi's Orzma fund posted a real yield of 1.08%. Bank Discount's Tamar achieved a real yield of 0.93%.

Bank saving programs attracted deposits of NIS 235m. last month compared with NIS 1.94b. in the previous month.

In the first 10 months of the year saving plans have accumulated NIS 5.4b.

In October, index-linked plans attracted deposits of NIS 343m. while foreign currency-linked plans registered withdrawals of NIS 109m.

BITS AND BYTES

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Discount Investment Corp. increases holdings in Liraz: Discount Investment Corporation and its subsidiary PEC increased their combined holdings in Liraz Systems from 15% to 32%. Liraz is a TASE-traded company. More information about DIC's investment portfolios can be obtained from the corporation's website at www.dic.co.il.

Green Computers markets new line of PC's: Green Computers has begun marketing and distributing its line of PC's under the name "Green." Eight different models, costing about NIS 2,000 each, can be found in Green Shop outlets in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Green Computers, which is traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, said it plans to manufacture 25,000 computers a year.

Hewlett Packard holds regional conference: Hewlett Packard is holding a regional conference for distributors of the company's equipment from November 12 to 15 in Cyprus. Eighty distributors from Israel, Jordan and Egypt plus representatives from HP (Europe) are expected to attend. For more information, call (03)-752-7750.

Real-Time Computer and Embedded Computing Show arrives in Israel: The Real-Time Computer Show and the Embedded Computing Show will begin on November 14 at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza in Herzliya. The show, which is a travelling show organized by the Holland-based ACTIVE Exhibitions Europe, will feature more than 20 vendors. They will display a variety of solutions and equipment for the medical, aircraft, telecommunications and factory automation markets. For more information, call the hotel at (09)-544-444.

RT-SET provides virtual studio system to CBS News: RT-SET provided the American CBS News with its "Larus" virtual studio system. Anchor Dan Rather used it on election night. Throughout the broadcast, Rather displayed the latest election returns by touching a screen map of the US that would show three-dimensional graphics of the results of exit-poll surveys in that state. Based in Herzliya, RT-SET develops and markets three-dimensional computerized broadcasting systems for live broadcasting, post-production and other video production markets.

US Robotics Announces Fastest Modem to Date: US Robotics Inc. (Nasdaq: USRX) of Illinois has unveiled its X2 modem that can send data at 56,000 bits a second, faster than any other existing device. The high-speed modem will cut connection time to the Internet, making it cheaper to connect to the network. The new device is also expected to cause a drop in modem prices. The X2 will be available in January.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

| Currency (deposit term) | 3 MONTHS | 6 MONTHS | 12 MONTHS |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| U.S. dollar (\$250,000) | 4.750 | 5.000 | 5.375 |
| Pound sterling (£100,000) | 3.875 | 4.000 | 4.250 |
| German mark (DM 200,000) | 1.825 | 1.825 | 2.125 |
| Swiss franc (CHF 200,000) | 0.625 | 0.750 | 1.000 |
| Yen (10 million yen) | | | |

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (7.11.96)

| CURRENCY BASKET | CHECKS AND TRANSFERS | | BANKNOTES | | Rep. Rates** |
|-------------------------|----------------------|--------|-----------|------|--------------|
| | Buy | Sell | Buy | Sell | |
| Currency basket | 3.8291 | 3.9977 | - | - | 3.8537 |
| U.S. dollar | 3.2272 | 3.2783 | 3.17 | 3.33 | 3.2480 |
| German mark | 2.1285 | 2.1728 | 2.10 | 2.15 | 2.1514 |
| Pound sterling | 5.3019 | 5.3875 | 5.21 | 5.47 | 5.3329 |
| French franc | 0.6328 | 0.6429 | 0.62 | 0.68 | 0.6373 |
| Japanese yen (100) | 2.8836 | 2.9305 | 2.83 | 2.98 | 2.9043 |
| Dutch flor. | 1.9170 | 1.9578 | 1.87 | 1.97 | 1.9214 |
| Swiss franc | 2.5482 | 2.5883 | 2.50 | 2.63 | 2.5678 |
| Swedish krona | 0.4855 | 0.4974 | 0.48 | 0.51 | 0.4822 |
| Norwegian krona | 0.5091 | 0.5174 | 0.50 | 0.53 | 0.5122 |
| Danish krone | 4.8384 | 0.5058 | 0.54 | 0.58 | 0.5005 |
| Finnish mark | 0.7095 | 0.7210 | 0.69 | 0.74 | 0.7140 |
| Canadian dollar | 2.4202 | 2.4593 | 2.37 | 2.50 | 2.4366 |
| Australian dollar | 2.2295 | 2.2705 | 2.48 | 2.61 | 2.5443 |
| S. African rand | 0.8272 | 0.8583 | 0.82 | 0.70 | 0.8211 |
| Belgian franc (10) | 1.0373 | 1.0541 | 1.01 | 1.07 | 1.0457 |
| Austrian schilling (10) | 3.0389 | 3.0880 | 2.98 | 3.14 | 3.0631 |
| Italian lira (1000) | 2.1288 | 2.1612 | 2.09 | 2.20 | 2.1448 |
| Jordanian dinar | 4.4800 | 4.7900 | 4.49 | 4.79 | 4.3122 |
| Egyptian pound | 0.8200 | 1.0000 | 0.82 | 1.00 | 1.0384 |
| ECU | 4.0951 | 4.1612 | - | - | 4.1258 |
| Irish punt | 5.3151 | 5.4009 | 5.22 | 5.48 | 5.3485 |
| Spanish peseta (100) | 2.5400 | 2.5810 | 2.49 | 2.62 | 2.5586 |

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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PURCHASE OF INTERPHARM SHARES



Ares-Serono has settled the litigation arising out of its 1994 tender offer for shares of InterPharm Laboratories Ltd. Ares-Serono now owns approximately 99% of the total outstanding shares of InterPharm Laboratories Ltd.

As a result of the successful completion of the settlement, Ares-Serono has also agreed to purchase shares of InterPharm Laboratories Ltd. held by persons who were not eligible to participate in the settlement because they acquired their shares of InterPharm Laboratories Ltd. after May 6, 1994, the date that Ares-Serono launched its tender offer. These shares will be acquired at the same net price offered to the participants in the settlement, US \$25.00 per share.

The company has engaged E. Shalev Ltd., an affiliate of Oppenheimer & Co., to carry out the purchase of these additional shares, which may be sold to Ares-Serono on the above terms until November 11, 1996.

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Key Representative Rates

Table showing exchange rates for U.S. Dollar, Sterling, and German mark against the Israeli Sheqel.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET

New York market indexes

Table listing major US stock market indices such as DJ Industrials, DJ Composite, and NYSE Dow Jones.

Other stock market indexes

Table listing international stock market indices including FTSE 100, Nikkei, and Hang Seng.

Israeli stocks in US

Table listing the performance of various Israeli stocks in the US market, including Amich, Bezeq, and others.

INTERNATIONAL MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

Table showing the dollar's performance against various international currencies.

Labor rates

Table showing interest rates for various terms including 3-month, 6-month, and 12-month.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Text providing information about futures, options, stocks, bonds, and mutual funds.

INTERNATIONAL COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities

Table listing prices for various US commodities like coffee, sugar, and wheat.

London commodities

Table listing prices for various commodities traded in the London market.

Spot metal prices (US)

Table showing prices for various spot metal products.

New York metal futures

Table listing prices for various metal futures contracts.

London metal fixes

Table listing prices for various metal fixings in the London market.

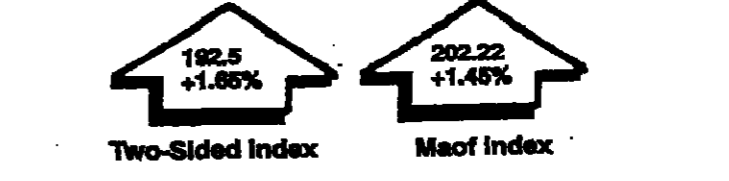
TEL AVIV STOCKS

Large table titled 'Multi-sided trading' and 'Two-sided trading' listing various Israeli stocks and their market performance.

Market rises on Wall St. advance

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



SHARE indexes jumped in heavy trading as most Israeli issues listed both in New York and Tel Aviv were swept up in Wall Street's broad advance yesterday.

Eurobourses end down on weak dollar nerves

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON, Nov 7 (Reuter) - European bourses ended lower yesterday, depressed by a steep decline in the US dollar.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table titled 'INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES' listing various international stocks and their prices.

Blue chips extend post-vote surge to second day

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuter) - Blue-chip stocks roared back from early losses to set another record yesterday as the market extended its post-election run-up into a second day.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table showing currency exchange rates for various countries including the UK, Germany, France, and Japan.

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HOLIDAY RENTALS
CLUB HOTEL ELIAT, unit for week of Pesech vacation, opportunity, Tel. 04-999-8212, 04-998-8212
SALES/RENTALS
BEAUTIFUL PENTHOUSE WITH panoramic view of sea, new project just completed near Hadera, Tel. 050-245055, 02-533-6244 (weekends) (Gad).

WHERE TO GO

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WHERE TO GO
HEBREW UNIVERSITY, Tours of the Mount Scopus campus in English, daily Sun.-Thur. 11 a.m. from Bronfman Reception Centre, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 44, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 862818.
GENERAL
JERUSALEM

AMIT WOMEN: See Israel's future. Visit our project. Sun-Thurs. 8 a.m. - Jan. sabbat 02-5819222 - Tel Aviv 03-5272528
HAIFA
WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-374253.
JERUSALEM

CONDUCTED TOURS
Tourists and visitors, come and see the General Israel Orphans Home for Girls, Jerusalem's manifold activities, and impressively modern buildings. Free Guided tours weekdays, 9-12 Bus no. 14, 24 or 5, Kiyat Moshe, 522261.
RAMOT, LUXURIOUS TWO family, park, only \$220,000, Exclusive through KING DAVID DWELLINGS, Tel. 02-642-6363, David.
RAMOT VILLA, 300 sq. m. frame expansion possible, view. Exclusive PEARL SKOLNIK REALTY, Tel. 02-586-6552.
REHAVIA, ATTRACTIVE, 4, separate entrance, office/investment. Exclusive COHRINNE DAVAR, Tel. 02-673-3385.
SAN SIMON, 3, spacious, cinema, quiet, balcony + view. Exclusive to HOMES ISRAEL AMERICA LTD, Tel. 02-583-8333. (MALDAN).
SHAI AGNON, 5.5 + dining area, spacious, 1st floor, parking, \$485,000, ANGLI SAXON (Maldan), Tel. 02-625-1161.

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART, Following the Shoch Graff in the Yitzhak Rabin Square. Ten years to the Ministry of Education Prize in Plastic Arts. Portraits - by a group of Israeli artists. Virtual Reality - the domestic and realistic in contemporary Israeli art. Menasha Kadisman, Drawings, Zehav Danziger & Retrospective. "Face to Face" - The Museum Collections. ELLEN RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Shlomo Ben-David and Arnon Ben-David New Works. Hours: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tue., 10a.m. - 10 p.m. Fri., 10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m., Sat., 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center., Tel. 8919165-8.

TO LET - IMMEDIATELY - Ramat Aviv COTTAGE, 3-4 rooms, nicely furnished, Tel. 03-586-0396.
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- COTTAGES 5.5 + basement, From \$1800
- NEAR AREL, Luxurious 7 room cottage + basement \$3000
- NEW High standard, full air, terrace \$580
- 5 ROOMS + terrace, new, central, quiet, luxurious \$380,000
- DUPELXES 56 room, beautiful, with terrace \$250,000
- SUPER VILLA 7 + large basement, \$910,000
- NEAR "AREL" 6 + basement, elegant \$910,000
- COTTAGE 5 m, special offer \$495,000
- HERZIYA 3 1/2 m, quiet, 1st fl. \$225,000
- COTTAGES New 6 + basement, From \$400,000

58 Ahuz St., Eilat Center, Ra'anana
Tel/Fax: 09-822333 or Tel. 09-451579

ARTGUIDE

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ART GUIDE
HAIFA
THE REUBEN AND EDITH HECHT MUSEUM, (Haifa University). Permanent exhibition: "The People of Israel in Eretz Yisrael - Philonians on the Northern Coast of Israel in the Biblical Period - B'ness and Healing in Ancient Times - Impressionism and the Jewish School of Paris. Open Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur. 10-4; Tue. 10-7, Fri. 10-1. Sat. 10-2. ADMISSION FREE.

ART GUIDE
JERUSALEM
Museums
MUSEUM OF YEHOSHUA COURT MUSEUM, Life in the Jewish community in the Old city, mid-19th century - World War II. 6 Or-Ha-aim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun.-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART, Following the Shoch Graff in the Yitzhak Rabin Square. Ten years to the Ministry of Education Prize in Plastic Arts. Portraits - by a group of Israeli artists. Virtual Reality - the domestic and realistic in contemporary Israeli art. Menasha Kadisman, Drawings, Zehav Danziger & Retrospective. "Face to Face" - The Museum Collections. ELLEN RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Shlomo Ben-David and Arnon Ben-David New Works. Hours: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tue., 10a.m. - 10 p.m. Fri., 10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m., Sat., 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center., Tel. 8919165-8.

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REALESTATE

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For 1-year-old baby. Live-in, non smoker, great conditions. Tel. (03) 691-2749 (NS).

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The leading Employment Agency for English speaking personnel. Sec: 03 696 3383. Tel: 03 691 6589. Fax: 03 691 6711. Tel: 03 904 1193. Fax: 03 904 1193. www.marksmgr.com

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Mother tongue English, typing, Word 6, office located in Ramat Gan. Fax C.V. to: 03-6131517

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seeks marketing assistant. Fax: 03-531-3373.

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needs perfect German - English speaking and writing secretary 5 hours, 5 days a week. Tel: 03-522-0528, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. or 03-605-0582, evenings

Our Client, an investment company

seeks a SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST with English (mt) and spoken Hebrew. Should have some experience using Word. For details please call ORLI - 03-6915880 KEDUMIM PERSONNEL

TEL AVIV AND SHARON, secretary

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INDUSTRIOUS, CREATIVE ASSISTANT chef wanted in a restaurant in Ramat Hasharon. Tel. 03-549-4976, 03-540-9897.

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Book Publishing House seeks Salesperson with good computer and customer skills. Fluent Hebrew and English. Phone: 03-5626622 Fax: 1103-5626879

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AU PAIR + housework, live-in possible, Hod Hasharon. Tel. 09-406870.

AU-PAIR, LIVE IN, for house in Ra'anana

(older children). Tel. 09-7717655.

AU-PAIR FOR HOUSEWORK + care

for 1 year old child. Live-in, Rosh Hayotin. Tel. 03-9022417.

HERZLIYA, CHILDCARE, 4 year old boy

- 8 - 2 days monthly, odd nights. Tel. 08-500872.

HERZLIYA PITUAH, AU PAIR for pleasant family

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RA'ANANA - AFTERNOON BABYSITTER

English speaking mother tongue. Sun, Wed 19:00-21:00. Tel. 02-7490193.

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Haifa and North BOOKKEEPING

INTERNATIONAL COMPANY, BOOKKEEPER, grade 4 and up, experience and English mother tongue necessary. Sun, Wed to Fax: 04-853-2382, attention Zahava.

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SINGERS, DANCERS, ACTORS, director, producer, technician, business agent. Merkavan Theater. Tel. 02-628-102.

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HI - LEVEL, ENGLISH speaking secretary from N.Y.C., top skills (80 wpm), Word, Excel, Lotus, Access, etc.). Seeking private or corporate work in Tel Aviv. Tel. 090-430-888.

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BUY, SELL OR exchange antique furniture, apartment contents and liquidations. Tel. 03-653-1724.

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LOOKING TO BUY a camcorder working NTSC system, new or used, any major brand will be good. Please call as soon as possible. Yoni: 052-500613.

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WANTED TO BUY second-hand printer in perfect condition for computer. Tel. 02-5862554, 02-5315628, N.S.

FOR SALE

RARE MERCEDES HEBREW typewriter, Singer sewing machine, sheets of microfilm PVC, pictures, books. Tel. 02-653-6784 (NS).

CLOTHES CLOSET, 2 levels, 1.50 x 2.50. Tel. 02-568-5356, 052-401-929 (NS).

QUEEN SIZE FUTON mattress with wood frame. Doubles as bed and couch. Good condition. Tel. 02-671-4210.

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BY AMERICAN HISTORIAN, lecturer, artist, musician, seeks and intelligent woman for marital purposes. Tel. 09-771-2958.

ATTRACTIVE, INTELLIGENT WOMAN seeking intelligent, serious, Hebrew speaking, aged 35-45. Tel. 04-8324503.

SEEKING

Contact with anyone from the Yassy family of Jerusalem, Queens, New York that once lived at 82-82 165th St. Particularly interested in finding Leo. Please contact his telephone through Jerusalem Post ads department. Tel. 02-531-5844, Fax: 02-638-8408.

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IF YOU ARE in the upper 10% of all standards, call Natan. Tel. 03-578-2378.

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FOR SINGLES (AGE 35+) SPECIAL DANCING PARTY every FRIDAY 22:30 In American style: D.J., Country Music singer and Free Buffet. Tel Aviv "DeKali" Country Club, Baviy Tel. 02-6791348, 03-7237622.

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FLAMES DIRECT CONNECTION Matrimonial introductions with Personal Compatibility Matching Quality introductions. Special rates for the observant. 25 Arifzevot, Ramat Gan 03-6733354, 0792167

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AMSTAFF PUPPIES, \$400. Tel. 02-537-7237 (eva).

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Tel Aviv HOME NEEDED

HELPI! URGENTLY NEEDED loving home for 2 beautiful abandoned Husky puppies in Ramat Aviv Gimmel. Time is short, winter is coming. Tel. 03-642-7255, 03-642-5372.

PETS

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NISSAN SPORT 300 Zx, 1987, \$4,500. Tel. 050-289888. Also, Ford Mercury, EcoLine, Passat Landrover, Galt. Tel. 02-5420234.

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GALANT, GLSi, 1991, 2000, automatic, ABS, excellent condition + alarm. Tel. 02-5346454.

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1989 VW PASSAT, air conditioned, sunroof, like new. \$8000, o.b.o. Tel. 02-533-5790.

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GLA '95, FULLY automatic, 14,000 km., A/C. like new. Tel. 02-558-4848, 02-584-4514.

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VEHICLES

Tel Aviv PASSPORT

MITSUBISHI COLT, 1996, 10,000 km., excellent condition, alarm. Tel. 03-905-4515 (eva).

CHRISTOPHER

(Continued from Page 1) tenacious advocate," Clinton said.

Christopher had also fiercely defended the State Department against cuts advocated by Congress and the White House, arguing that American foreign policy could not be conducted "on the cheap." Following the 1992 elections, Christopher directed Clinton's transition team. He had earlier led the search for Clinton's running mate.

Under president Jimmy Carter, Christopher was the US's top negotiator in the protracted talks that eventually liberated the American hostages held in Tehran for 444 days.

In a lighthearted start to yesterday's announcement, Clinton joked about Christopher's impeccable grooming and proper ways. He said that while White House staff wore special T-shirts on Wednesday to welcome home the victorious president, Christopher wore his shirt "under his Saville Row suit."

"This is the same Warren Christopher. I would remind you all, who made People magazine's best-dressed list - the only man to eat Presidential M&M's on Air Force One with a knife and fork," Clinton said.

Christopher also logged more miles traveling abroad than any secretary of state.

Referring to Christopher's upcoming trip to Egypt, where he is to head the US delegation to next week's Cairo economic conference, and to China, Clinton said that "the vice president says that with the travel he's already logged in, he could go to the moon and back, and back to the moon again. I want him to travel a few more miles so he will finish on the right planet."

IMMEDIATE CHEVROLET BARRETTA. 2.5 LITZ, 5 speed coupe, 1992, extra. Tel. 03-605-4953.

VEHICLES

Sharon Area PASSPORT

PASSPORT TO PASSPORT 1993 Jeep Grand Cherokee V8 28000 miles. Black, grey leather seats, excellent condition, fully loaded, as new. Bargain price. Call Moshe Dan, Kfar Shamaryahu, Tel. 09-9580989; home 09-8582332, 052-464316.

PASSPORT

1994 CLEO AUTOMATIC for sale, or tax paid. Colin. Tel. 08-683-837, 052-423-327.

IN THE MATTER OF BARRETTA

SOLOMON, Hong Kong THE MATTER OF THE Legal Practitioners Ordinance

To Mr. Barre Barrett, whose last known address is 2 Melbourn Road, Torok, Victoria 3142, Australia, and 3 Dow Ho Street, Harzuya, Israel.

TAKE NOTICE THAT proceedings have been instituted against you, under Rule 3 of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Proceedings Rules Cap. 159 Laws of Hong Kong (the said Rules) by the Law Society of Hong Kong, of Rooms 1403-1413 Swiss House, Central, Hong Kong.

IT IS ORDERED THAT you do attend before the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal sitting at Rooms 1403-1413 Swiss House, 11 Chester Road, Central, Hong Kong, on Friday, the 10th day of January 1997, at 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon, if you fail to appear, the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal may,

Holyfield in full fighting form for bout against Tyson

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Evander Holyfield probably is the most physically examined fighter in history.

Still speculation and argument about whether the 34-year-old former heavyweight champion is at risk in his challenge to WBA champion Mike Tyson tomorrow.

Holyfield scoffs at the doomsayers. "I wouldn't do anything to hurt myself," Holyfield said Wednesday. "What makes you think I love boxing more than I love myself?"

Asked about Holyfield's health, Tyson said, "I don't know anything about it. I'm not concerned about that. I don't think about hurting somebody else. He could endanger my life, too."

Despite having fought three times since retiring with a heart problem after losing on points to Michael Moorer April 22, 1994, Holyfield has undergone extensive testing at the Mayo Clinic. In addition, the Nevada State Athletic Commission twice sent physicians to Houston to monitor his training.

"In summarizing Mr. Holyfield's recent evaluation at the Mayo Clinic, including the foregoing examinations requested by the commission, Mr. Holyfield is in excellent health, and no cardiac or pulmonary abnormality is demonstrable," Dr. John Scott wrote to Dr. James Nave, chairman of the Nevada Commission, in a letter dated August 30.

"Based upon our evaluation, no restrictions should be placed upon Mr. Holyfield's activities, including boxing."

"This fight is special," Holyfield said. "I want to be a champion. It's not so much that I want Tyson."

It seems, however, that what makes the fight special for Holyfield is that the opponent is Tyson.

"Tyson is one of the best fighters in my era," Holyfield said. "I want to fight all of the top fighters in my era. I want people to say, 'Holyfield... he beat the guy who was the toughest.'"

Tyson was an 11-1 favorite to win the feature of a heavyweight championship tripleheader at the MGM Grand Garden. In the other bouts on the pay-per-view show, Michael Moorer will defend the WBA title against Francois Botha of South Africa, and Henry Akinwande, a Briton living in



THE UNDERDOG - Evander Holyfield laughs off predictions favoring Mike Tyson in tomorrow's bout.

Tallahassee, Florida, will defend the WBO title against Alexander Zolkin, a Russian living in Columbus, Ohio.

While saying Holyfield is a good fighter, Tyson also said, "I don't believe he's in my league now. I don't believe he was back then."

It appeared Holyfield would challenge Tyson for the undisputed championship in June 1990, but Tyson was upset on a 10th-round knockout by James "Buster" Douglas February 11, 1990.

Then Holyfield was scheduled

to defend the undisputed title against Tyson on November 8, 1991, but Tyson injured ribs in training and the fight was called off October 18. On February 10, 1992, Tyson was convicted of rape and served three years in prison.

Holyfield lost the undisputed title to Riddick Bowe in 1992 and regained the WBA and IBF titles from Bowe in 1993.

Then, after losing those two titles to Bowe and retiring, Holyfield came back to outpoint Ray Mercer on May 20, 1995. He then was stopped by Bowe in the

eighth round of their rubber match November 4, 1995.

"He didn't seem right in that fight," Tyson said of Holyfield, who was on the point of exhaustion when he was stopped by Bowe.

Ignoring calls to retire again, Holyfield stopped Bobby Czyz in the fifth round last May 10, but looked anxious in an unimpressive performance.

"It wasn't one of my best fights," Holyfield said. "I think that performance made Tyson want to fight me now."

"I knew eventually we would fight," Tyson said. A lot of boxing fans, however, wish Tyson vs. Holyfield would have been sooner than later.

Israel squads arrive in Cyprus

THE national soccer squads arrived in Cyprus yesterday morning and immediately set off for their hotel in Limassol, site of the World Cup European group qualifying group 5 clash with the host country on Sunday.

The Israelis must have felt as if they were returning to Ben-Gurion Airport, rather than arriving in a foreign country, as hoards of Israelis were there to greet them. Some 2,000 Israelis have invaded Cyprus for the game and hope to give the visiting team a much-needed boost for the extremely tough match at the island's southern port city.

The Israelis trained last night, but due to the national side's injury worries, Ronnie Rosenthal looks likely to open the match, with the recuperating Rommen

Harazi possibly coming off the bench later in the match. The squads' international duties (the national teams plays at 6 p.m. and the under 21 side kicks off in Nicosia at 2 pm) have meant another hiatus in National League and Second Division action, and both top divisions will compete in the Toto Cup this weekend.

Only six national League Toto Cup matches will take place today and tomorrow, the other two will be played at a later date. The weekend's matches are:

Zafrim Holon v. Ironi Rishon, Maccabi Petah Tikva v. Hapoel Beit She'an, Bnei Yehuda v. Hapoel Tel Aviv, Maccabi Herzliya v. Beitar Jerusalem, Hapoel Jerusalem v. Hapoel Haifa, Hapoel

Petah Tikva v. Hapoel Kfar Sava.

National League Toto Cup

Group A

| Mac. Tel Aviv | Hap. Tel Aviv | Hap. Ashdod | Zafrim Holon |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| P | W | D | L |
| 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| 11 | 11 | 3 | 9 |
| 23 | 23 | 3 | 9 |

Group B

| Mac. Haifa | Hap. Be'er Sheva | Hap. Beit She'an |
|------------|------------------|------------------|
| P | W | D |
| 4 | 1 | 1 |
| 11 | 11 | 3 |
| 23 | 23 | 5 |

Group C

| Bnei Yehuda | Beit. Jerusalem | Mac. Herzliya | Hap. Taba |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|
| P | W | D | L |
| 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 11 | 11 | 3 | 9 |
| 23 | 23 | 5 | 9 |

Group D

| Hap. Haifa | Hap. Kfar Sava | Hap. Petah Tikva | Hap. Jerusalem |
|------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| P | W | D | L |
| 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| 11 | 11 | 3 | 9 |
| 23 | 23 | 5 | 9 |

Rangers, Islanders tie in NY 'derby'

UNIONDALE, New York (AP) - Adam Graves scored with 2:53 left in regulation as the New York Rangers pulled out a 1-1 tie with the New York Islanders Wednesday night as Wayne Gretzky went scoreless for the first time in 16 games.

Gretzky had amassed seven goals and 15 assists for 22 points in the league-high streak that started in his second game of the season, his first in New York.

The night belonged to Graves as far as the Rangers were concerned. On their 14th and final shot of the period, he knocked in a rebound of Brian Leetch's slap shot past Eric Fichand. Derek King scored the Islanders' goal as they failed for the fifth time to hold a third-period lead, only to settle for a tie.

Whalers 5, Bruins 1
Paul Ranheim and Geoff Sanderson each scored twice and Sean Burke made 27 saves to lead the Hartford Whalers to victory.

The victory, Hartford's first since October 24, snapped a five-game winless streak and moved the Whalers (6-4-2) into first place in the Northeast Division with 14 points.

Steve Heinze scored for the Bruins, who are 0-2-2 in their last four.

Penguins 5, Oilers 2
Mario Lemieux scored a tie-breaking goal late in the third period to help the Pittsburgh Penguins win consecutive games for the first time this season.

The Oilers have lost three straight and are 0-2 so far on a six-game trip; their longest of the season.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS:
Hartford 5, Boston 1
Pittsburgh 5, Edmonton 2
NY Rangers 1, NY Islanders 1
Washington 2, Tampa Bay 1
New Jersey 2, Detroit 0
Dallas 3, Phoenix 2
Colorado 4, San Jose 1
Montreal 6, Anaheim 5

Lemieux, who had been held to one shot and no points in the first two periods, scored in the final seconds of a power play at 12:23. Ten seconds later, Glen Murray scored his third for Pittsburgh. Ron Francis scored into an empty net and shorthanded in the last minute.

Capitals 2, Lightning 1
Craig Berube scored the winning goal with 10:13 remaining as the Washington Capitals won.

Washington goalie Jim Carey won his fourth consecutive game, making 16 saves. He made several fine stops in the second period, including one on Roman Hamrik's blast from the left face-off circle during a 4-on-2.

Devils 2, Red Wings 0
The New Jersey Devils handed Detroit its first regular-season shutout in 98 games, riding Martin Brodeur's goaltending to a victory over the Red Wings.

Brodeur turned away 36 shots for his 13th career shutout. His last was a 5-0 win last March 15 over Tampa Bay. The Red Wings were blanked for the first time in a non-playoff game since Chicago's Ed Belfour won a regular season-ending 5-0 game on April 30, 1995.

John MacLean and Bobby Holik scored for New Jersey, which won a regular-season game in Detroit for the first time since Feb. 23, 1994.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

| Florida | N.Y. Rangers | Philadelphia | New Jersey | Tampa Bay | Washington | N.Y. Islanders |
|---------|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|----------------|
| W | L | T | Pts | GF | GA | |
| 8 | 1 | 4 | 20 | 41 | 23 | |
| 6 | 7 | 4 | 16 | 55 | 51 | |
| 7 | 8 | 0 | 14 | 41 | 43 | |
| 8 | 5 | 2 | 13 | 27 | 32 | |
| 6 | 6 | 1 | 13 | 43 | 40 | |
| 6 | 7 | 0 | 12 | 36 | 40 | |
| 3 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 34 | 34 | |

Northwest Division

| Hartford | Buffalo | Montreal | Boston | Ottawa | Pittsburgh |
|----------|---------|----------|--------|--------|------------|
| W | L | T | Pts | GF | GA |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 38 | 34 |
| 6 | 6 | 0 | 13 | 34 | 36 |
| 5 | 6 | 3 | 13 | 39 | 39 |
| 4 | 6 | 0 | 11 | 27 | 32 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 11 | 34 | 38 |
| 4 | 9 | 0 | 8 | 37 | 52 |

Stars 3, Coyotes 2
Mike Modano scored a pair of goals to lead the Dallas Stars over the slumping Phoenix Coyotes.

Benoit Hogue also scored for the Stars, and goaltender Andy Moog made 29 saves for his league-leading eighth win (8-3-0) of the season.

Dallas Drake and Darrin Shannon scored for the Coyotes, who have won only two of their last nine games (2-5-2) and are winless in their last six at home (0-4-2).

Canadiens 6, Mighty Ducks 5
Martin Rucinsky earned his second career hat trick and Mark Recchi set up three goals as the Montreal Canadiens earned their first road victory.

Vincent Damphousse added a power-play goal and two assists to help Montreal snap a four-game winless streak. Goaltender Jose Theodore, called up from Fredericton of the minor league AHL, when Jocelyn Thibault broke his finger, earned his first NHL victory with 38 saves after stopping a combined 77 shots in his other two starts.

Paul Kariya, playing his fourth game for the Ducks after sitting out the first 12 with an abdominal strain, scored his first two goals of the season on power plays.

Avalanche 4, Sharks 1
Keith Jones, obtained by Colorado in a weekend trade, scored twice and Patrick Roy maintained his unbeaten record against the Sharks.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

| Dallas | Chicago | Detroit | Toronto | St. Louis | Phoenix |
|--------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|
| W | L | T | Pts | GF | GA |
| 10 | 4 | 2 | 20 | 42 | 33 |
| 8 | 5 | 2 | 18 | 40 | 36 |
| 8 | 6 | 2 | 18 | 41 | 31 |
| 7 | 5 | 0 | 14 | 42 | 39 |
| 6 | 9 | 0 | 12 | 47 | 51 |
| 5 | 7 | 2 | 12 | 38 | 40 |

Pacific Division

| Colorado | Calgary | Los Angeles | San Jose | Vancouver | Edmonton | Anaheim |
|----------|---------|-------------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|
| W | L | T | Pts | GF | GA | |
| 7 | 7 | 1 | 15 | 42 | 36 | |
| 6 | 6 | 3 | 15 | 42 | 48 | |
| 6 | 7 | 3 | 15 | 48 | 52 | |
| 7 | 5 | 0 | 14 | 42 | 49 | |
| 7 | 5 | 0 | 14 | 42 | 49 | |
| 2 | 10 | 3 | 7 | 37 | 80 | |

Fans still happy as Nomo leads visiting team over fellow Japanese

NISHINOMIYA, Japan (AP) - Never mind that Los Angeles Dodgers starter Hideo Nomo delivered just one strikeout and gave up four earned runs in four innings.

The fans loved it all the same as the US major league all-stars beat the Japanese all-star team 11-8 yesterday.

It was a true homecoming for Nomo, who left Japanese baseball two years ago. The Koshien Ball Park, packed with 55,000 fans, is right by Nomo's hometown of Osaka in western Japan.

"I really wanted to pitch in Osaka, and I'm more than happy," Nomo said after the game. "I'm glad I could pitch before so many people."

Nomo gave up four hits and four runs in the top of the third inning. But fans were delighted to see his famous "tornado" delivery.

"Nomo was great," said Kazumasa Takeshi, who took a day off to see the game. "His pitching was a lot more powerful than it looks on TV."

The US team leads the eight-game Super Major series, 4-1-1. But Nomo (16-11) said it wasn't about winning.

"I grew up here in Osaka. I have friends and relatives," he said. "I just wanted the people to see me pitch and get a taste of major league baseball."

The fans went wild as the US side totaled 15 hits and the Japanese team, 11.

Cleveland's Jose Mesa picked up his second save of the series with a scoreless ninth.

The seventh game in the series is scheduled for tomorrow at Yokohama.

In the 1992 goodwill series, Nomo, then of the Kintetsu Buffaloes, pitched against the Americans, who led the series 6-1-1. In 1990, the Japanese won 4-3-1.

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Five Israelis make quarters in Ramat Hasharon satellite

HEATHER CHAIT

FIVE Israeli tennis players are in the quarter-finals of the men's satellite circuit in Ramat Hasharon.

Top seed Eyal Erlich continued his winning streak against qualifier Gregory Zavialoff from France, winning 6-3, 6-3. Ofer Sela and Raviv Weidenfeld, seeded second and third respectively, also won their matches. Sela subdued Kobi Ziv 6-3, 6-4 and Weidenfeld beat Martin Verkerk from Holland 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

Lior Mor and Harel Levy are the other two local names still alive in this tournament. Mor at Croatian Zeljko Krajan's expense and Levy who put out fellow Israeli Ari Strasberg, another qualifier.

In the Marjorie Sherman women's challenger, Hila Rosen and Tsippi Obziler survived to reach the quarter-final round.

Rosen showed tremendous determination to return from one set down to clinch the second set tiebreak and force a third set which she then sailed through, winning 2-6, 7-6(7/5), 6-0 against Anique Snyder from Holland. Obziler, a qualifier in this \$25,000 event, had an easy 6-2, 6-1 win over Jane Wood from England.

Play today begins at 10:30 am.

Off-form Maccabi loses to Limoges

JOEL GORDIN

MACCABI Tel Aviv put on its worst display of the season last night at Yad Eliyahu and thoroughly deserved a 77-69 drubbing at the hands of the French club, Limoges, in their sixth game of the Euro League preliminary round.

Maccabi is now 3-3 in Group A and its chances of being among the top three teams in the pool are edging away.

The defeat, coming after the 93-79 humiliation on Sunday to Hapoel Ellat in the State Cup, points to a real crisis developing for the Israeli champions. On form, Limoges is the weakest team in the group and, to boot, they played without their injured star Vern Fleming and without Spencer Dunkley who was suspended for disciplinary reasons.

Maccabi started on the wrong foot and after a scrappy opening was soon 0-5 down. Things looked up for the Israeli fans when Oded Katash showed the shape of things to come when he hit a three-pointer.

Buck Johnson scored some good points - and then Maccabi faded away into the weakest half it has played in some years. The team's defense was filled with gaping holes which the Limoges players - sharpshooter Yann Bonato, the athletic Jean-Jacques Conzeleca and giant, 19-year-old Frederic Weiss - exploited to the full.

If the Israelis' defense was bad, the offense was worse. Maccabi lost possession seven times dur-

ing the half and failed to put together one decent play. Randy White was nervous and upset after being fouled in controversial decisions and Constantine Popa, Borku Radovic - even Doron Sheffer - failed to sink easy shots.

The home fans roundly booed their team when they went down to the locker room 26-35 behind.

But things looked no better after the break. Randy White was struck with a technical foul which further upset his already unstable temperament. Most of Maccabi's offensive moves continued to go astray in wild throws for the hoop.

However, midway through the half young Katash decided to go it alone.

In a display of three-point shooting which would have been applauded on an NBA court, he landed four three-pointers in five attempts. With a little bit of help from the evergreen Brad Leaf and from Johnson, he finally gave the crowd something to cheer about when he pulled Maccabi into a 51-50 lead. At one stage, he scored 13 straight points.

But one player cannot make a team and Maccabi could not hold the lead. When Katash was eventually fouled out, the Israelis collapsed again - and this time rolled over and died.

To give Limoges credit, they made the most of their oppo-

nents' mistakes and played an intelligent, stable game. Bonato hit 21. Weiss the same, Hugues Occaney 14, Frederic Porto 13, Conceicao 12 and Weiss 7.

For the luckless Maccabi, Katash had 16 (five three-pointers) and Johnson 10.

Next week, Maccabi faces CSKA in Moscow and drastic improvements will be needed in order to make sure of a top-three finish in Group A. Going by last night's display, they could not even beat most local clubs.

| GROUP A | W | L | Pts |
|------------------|---|---|-----|
| Stefanel Milan | 5 | 1 | 11 |
| CSKA Moscow | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Ulses | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Maccabi Tel Aviv | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Panionios | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| Limoges | 2 | 4 | 8 |

Magic tour in Tokyo leaves Nets at a loss

TOKYO (AP) - Anfernee Hardaway scored 23 points as the Orlando Magic opened the NBA's two-game Japan tour with a 108-95 victory over New Jersey Nets yesterday.

The game marked the NBA's fourth regular-season foray to Japan, the other three coming in 1990, 1992 and 1994. This year, NBA exhibition games also were played in Berlin, Seville and Mexico City.

Turnovers and cold shooting hurt the Nets in the second half as they suffered their second defeat of the new season. Both teams had lost their season openers before moving to Tokyo for two games. The second will be played tomorrow.

The Nets led 59-57 in the third quarter before the Magic went on an 11-point run, including six points by David Vaughn, that put them up 68-59.

Kendall Gill led the Nets with 22, and Shawn Bradley had 18 points and 11 rebounds.

Six other games were played Wednesday night in the United States, several hours before the Tokyo game.

Bulls 106, Miami 100

Michael Jordan scored 50 points Wednesday night and the unbeaten Chicago Bulls rallied from a 15-point deficit.

Jordan hit 18 of 33 field-goal attempts and 13 of 14 free throws. The performance was his most prolific since he scored 53 points against Detroit on March 7.

Alonzo Mourning had 33 points and 19 rebounds for Miami. Dennis Rodman grabbed 22 rebounds for the visiting Bulls.

Miami trailed 79-63, then closed to 88-83. But Jordan scored 10 points in the final six minutes. He also had the Bulls' first 11 points and 15 of their 19 in the opening period.

Celtics 94, Pacers 84

The host Celtics held Indiana to eight points in the third quarter and overcame a 26-point deficit to win their first game of the season.

Dino Radja had 23 points and 11 rebounds and David Wesley added 19 points for Boston, which outscored Indiana 38-8 in the third quarter.

Reggie Miller scored 28 points, Antonio Davis had 12 and Derrick McKey 11 for the Pacers, who committed 24 turnovers as their record dropped to 0-3.

Bulls 96, Spurs 86

Chris Webber had 22 points and a career-high 21 rebounds and Washington pulled away in the



UP AND IN - New Jersey forward Jayson Williams leaps for a basket while Orlando's defense looks on.

were negative and his status was day-to-day.

Tony Dumas led the Mavericks with 15 points.

Hornets 88, Lakers 78

Matt Geiger provided an unlikely boost to host Charlotte's injury-depleted backcourt by making four 3-pointers as the Hornets halted the Lakers' best start since 1987.

Geiger, a 7-foot-1 center who had just three 3-pointers last season, finished with 22 points and 10 rebounds to help the Hornets defeat Los Angeles for the sixth time in eight games.

Geiger's performance came on a night when the Hornets were without starting guards Glen Rice and Muggsy Bogues.

Shaquille O'Neal had 22 points and 10 rebounds for Los Angeles.

Bucks 105, Grizzlies 89

Vin Baker and rookie Ray Allen scored 20 points apiece and Glenn Robinson had 18 as host Milwaukee remained unbeaten and kept Vancouver winless.

Milwaukee, under new coach Chris Ford, in 3-0 for the first time since 1971-72. The Bucks' 1970-71 NBA championship team also started 3-0.

Vancouver, which dropped to 0-4, was led by Blue Edwards and rookie Shareef Abdur-Rahim with 18 points apiece.

The Bucks used runs of 10-0 and 11-1 in the first half to take a 50-39 lead at halftime, and the Grizzlies were unable to catch up.

| EASTERN CONFERENCE | | | | |
|--------------------|---|------|------|-------|
| Atlantic Division | | | | |
| W | L | Pct. | GB | |
| Miami | 2 | 1 | .667 | - |
| New York | 2 | 1 | .667 | - |
| Washington | 2 | 1 | .667 | - |
| Otledo | 1 | 1 | .500 | 1/2 |
| Boston | 1 | 2 | .333 | 1 |
| New Jersey | 0 | 2 | .000 | 1 1/2 |
| Philadelphia | 0 | 3 | .000 | 2 |

| Central Division | | | | |
|------------------|---|------|-------|-------|
| W | L | Pct. | GB | |
| Chicago | 4 | 0 | 1.000 | - |
| Detroit | 4 | 0 | 1.000 | - |
| Milwaukee | 3 | 0 | 1.000 | 3/4 |
| Charlotte | 2 | 1 | .667 | 1 1/2 |
| Cleveland | 2 | 1 | .667 | 1 1/2 |
| Atlanta | 2 | 2 | .500 | 2 |
| Toronto | 1 | 2 | .333 | 2 1/2 |
| Indiana | 0 | 3 | .000 | 3 1/2 |

| WESTERN CONFERENCE | | | | |
|--------------------|---|------|-------|-------|
| Midwest Division | | | | |
| W | L | Pct. | GB | |
| Houston | 4 | 0 | 1.000 | - |
| Minnesota | 2 | 1 | .667 | 1/2 |
| Utah | 2 | 1 | .667 | 1/2 |
| Denver | 1 | 2 | .333 | 2 1/2 |
| Dallas | 1 | 2 | .333 | 2 1/2 |
| San Antonio | 1 | 3 | .250 | 3 |
| Vancouver | 0 | 4 | .000 | 4 |

| Pacific Division | | | | |
|------------------|---|------|------|-------|
| W | L | Pct. | GB | |
| L.A. Lakers | 4 | 1 | .667 | - |
| L.A. Clippers | 2 | 1 | .667 | 1/2 |
| Portland | 2 | 2 | .500 | 1 |
| Golden State | 1 | 2 | .333 | 1 1/2 |
| Sacramento | 1 | 2 | .333 | 1 1/2 |
| Seattle | 1 | 2 | .333 | 1 1/2 |
| Phoenix | 0 | 3 | .000 | 2 1/2 |

SPORTS BRIEFS

Hodde complains about state of pitch

Coach Glenn Hodde has complained about the state of the pitch for England's World Cup qualifier against Georgia tomorrow.

Hodde, who has asked for the heavy roller to be used on the surface at the Boris Paichadze Stadium in Tbilisi, said yesterday: "The pitch looks worse than Moldova. But it won't suit Georgia either because they are a very technical side."

"There are patches all over the pitch, which is bare and brown in parts."

Chelsea director quits

Premier League club Chelsea, rocked by the death of vice-chairman and benefactor Matthew Harding last month, faced fresh boardroom turmoil yesterday after director Peter Middleton quit the club.

A statement from the club said only that Middleton had resigned as a director of both the soccer club and the Chelsea Village holding company which owns it.

Recent newspaper reports said Middleton believed Chelsea needed to give more boardroom influence to a director with financial skills if the club were to maintain the confidence of investors after the death of Harding.

Japan to host World Cup final

Japan and South Korea have cleared the first and biggest hurdle of the 2002 World Cup by agreeing to play the opening match in Seoul and the final in Japan, officials said yesterday.

"Japan will stage the final and the closing ceremony and South Korea the opening game and the opening ceremony," said an official in Seoul at the Office of Preparation for 2002 FIFA World Cup.

The deal was confirmed by Japanese officials at a two-day formal approval only by a FIFA Executive Committee meeting in Barcelona on December 7.

FIFA closes Guatemala stadium

Guatemala's Matco Flores stadium, where 80 people were killed in a stampede at a World Cup qualifying match last month, has been shut down indefinitely by soccer's world governing body, FIFA.

"The stadium is to be used for no matches until further notice," FIFA said yesterday.

'Mini' World Cup gets go-ahead

World governing body FIFA gave the go-ahead yesterday to a "mini" World Cup to be contested every two years by professional clubs and confirmed Saudi Arabia will host the first Confederations Cup in December next year.

Eight national teams will take part in the competition which will consist of two groups of four with the winners of each group meeting in the final.

FIFA allows Estonia-Scotland replay

Soccer's world governing body FIFA decided yesterday to replay last month's World Cup qualifier between Estonia and Scotland, a match which was abandoned after just three minutes because the Estonians failed to show up.

The match in Tallinn October 9 was interrupted when Scotland's FIFA granted a request by Scotland to move up the starting time of the game by several hours in order to play in daylight.

The Scots said temporary lighting at the field was inadequate to play at night. When the Estonians failed to turn up for the match, officials stopped the match after just three seconds with only the Scots on the field and a few hundred Scottish fans in the stadium.

Hollandsworth's NL rookie award makes it five straight for Dodgers

NEW YORK (AP) - Todd Hollandsworth won the National League Rookie of the Year award Wednesday, a record fifth straight year in which a Los Angeles Dodgers player has captured the honor.

The 23-year-old outfielder led all NL rookies in hits, doubles, home runs, RBIs, stolen bases and fewest errors this

season. After a slow start, he came on with a strong second half to finish with a .291 average, 12 home runs and 59 RBIs.

Hollandsworth received 15 first-place votes and 105 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Florida shortstop Edgar Renteria was second with 10 first-place

votes and 84 points. Pittsburgh catcher Jason Kendall got one first-place vote and 30 points overall.

The other two first-place votes went to Montreal's R.P. Santiago and New York's Rey Ordonez.

Hollandsworth's selection continues the Dodgers' stranglehold on the award, now named after Jackie Robinson, the first recipient and a former Dodger.

Hollandsworth is the Dodgers' 16th player to claim the award and he follows Hideo Nomo, Raul Mondesi, Mike Piazza and Eric Karros as Dodger winners this decade.

The franchise's 16 winners are more than twice as many as any other NL club, with the Cincinnati Reds second

with six. The New York Yankees have had eight players honored, including this year's winner, shortstop Derek Jeter.

The Dodgers' five-year run is the longest in the history of the award, topped only by another four-year span (1979-82) when Los Angeles players were tabbed.

Voting breakdown for the 1996 NL Rookie of the Year Award (five points for first place, three for second, one for third):

| Player | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Total |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Hollandsworth, LA | 15 | 8 | 3 | 105 |
| Renteria, Fla | 10 | 4 | 84 | |
| Kendall, Pitt | 1 | 5 | 10 | 30 |
| Santiago, Mon | 1 | 2 | 4 | 15 |
| Ordonez, NYM | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 |
| Dye, Atl | - | - | - | 5 |
| Benes, StL | - | - | - | 5 |

Boston College suspends 13 football players for betting

DA: No evidence of games being compromised

BOSTON (Renter) - Boston College on Wednesday suspended 13 football players for betting on college and professional sports, including two who bet against their own team.

The suspensions were announced following an investigation by the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office which revealed the players gambled on college football, pro football and pro baseball, including the World Series.

Jamall Anderson, Marcus Bembry, Paul Cary, John Coleman, Dan Collins, Chris Cosenza, Scott Dragos, Steve Everson, Kyle Geiselman, Brandon King, Brian Maye, Jermaine Monk and Rob Tardio were all suspended beginning with tomorrow's game against 17th-ranked Notre Dame.

"We have found absolutely no evidence, no indication of any game, the outcome of any game, the score of any game being compromised," Middlesex County District Attorney Thomas Reilly told a news conference.

Players bet from \$25 to \$100 to amounts "much higher" on games, Reilly said.

More damaging than the gambling allegations was the district attorney's finding that two BC players had actually bet against Boston College in the Eagles' 45-17 loss to Syracuse two weeks ago.

Although, Reilly pointed out, the two players were not in a position to influence the outcome of the game. "One did not play, one played in a very limited role," he said.

Boston College head football coach Dan Henning said the two players who bet against the team would never be welcomed back. Officials would not immediately reveal which of the 13 suspended players had bet against the team.

Reilly said the investigation was continuing. He praised Henning and other Boston College officials for alerting the police about rumors of betting and for cooperating with the investigation.

Under NCAA rules, the university can apply to have an athlete's eligibility restored and a suspension.

"There is no gray area at BC, it's black and white when it comes to the rules," athletic director Chet Gladchuk said in the basketball team's practice gym.

Gladchuk was non-committal on whether the school would rescind the scholarships or take further action against the athletes. But he said that question arises "any time a student athlete renders himself ineligible."

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Former navy purchasing head questioned in probe

BRIG-Gen (res.) Alex Eyal, formerly responsible for Israeli navy purchases in the US, was questioned yesterday at National Fraud Squad headquarters in Jaffa, in connection with the investigation into alleged bribery and fraud in a purchase of US-made helicopters by the IDF.

Eyal is apparently the major Israeli suspect in the case, although police sources said that in the coming days other people connected with the defense establishment are likely to be summoned for interrogation.

The case involves the purchase of an allegedly inflated price by

BILL HUTMAN

the IDF of Panther-type helicopters from the American Eurocopter company. The alleged \$10 million overcharge is suspected to have gone to company and Israeli officials.

Charges were filed recently in a US court in Virginia against American Eurocopter in connection with the case. Israeli and American law enforcement officials have been working together on the investigation.

Eyal, who is suspected of receiving kickbacks in return for approv-

ing the helicopter purchases, received a summons from police on Wednesday.

His lawyer, Dov Weissglass, sharply denied the allegations, and said Eyal was surprised by the summons, as he had not heard anything about the investigation until it was first made public in the Israeli media earlier this week.

Police yesterday tried to keep details of the investigation from being published. The police spokesman refused any comment, on grounds the investigation was "sensitive," and even declined to confirm that Eyal was questioned by police.

What's a Panther?

BACKGROUND
ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE Panther is an updated version of the Navy's Dolphin helicopter, one of which crashed at sea in September. Two of the five Panthers ordered have already been delivered and are being phased in as the Navy gets rid of its remaining Dolphins.

Known by its built-in rear tail rotor, the Panther - which the Navy calls "Atzlef" Hebrew for bat - is part of a new generation of aircraft which will be used to enhance the weapons systems on Navy missile boats by expanding their visible horizon. They will also hunt submarines and carry out search and rescue operations.

The Navy purchased the French-designed Panther from the American Euro-Copter company. Three more Panthers are to be

delivered by late 1997. Built by the French Aerospatiale company, the Panther will replace the Dolphin, which has been in IAF and Navy service since 1985.

The Panther's three-man crew is made up of a pilot, navigator and a Naval officer, who conducts the communications with the ship.

The Panther is precariously tied to a small platform of the Navy's cruiser class Sa'ar 4.5 and Sa'ar 5 ships, nicknamed "the smallest aircraft carriers in the world." It is capable of taking off and landing on this platform.

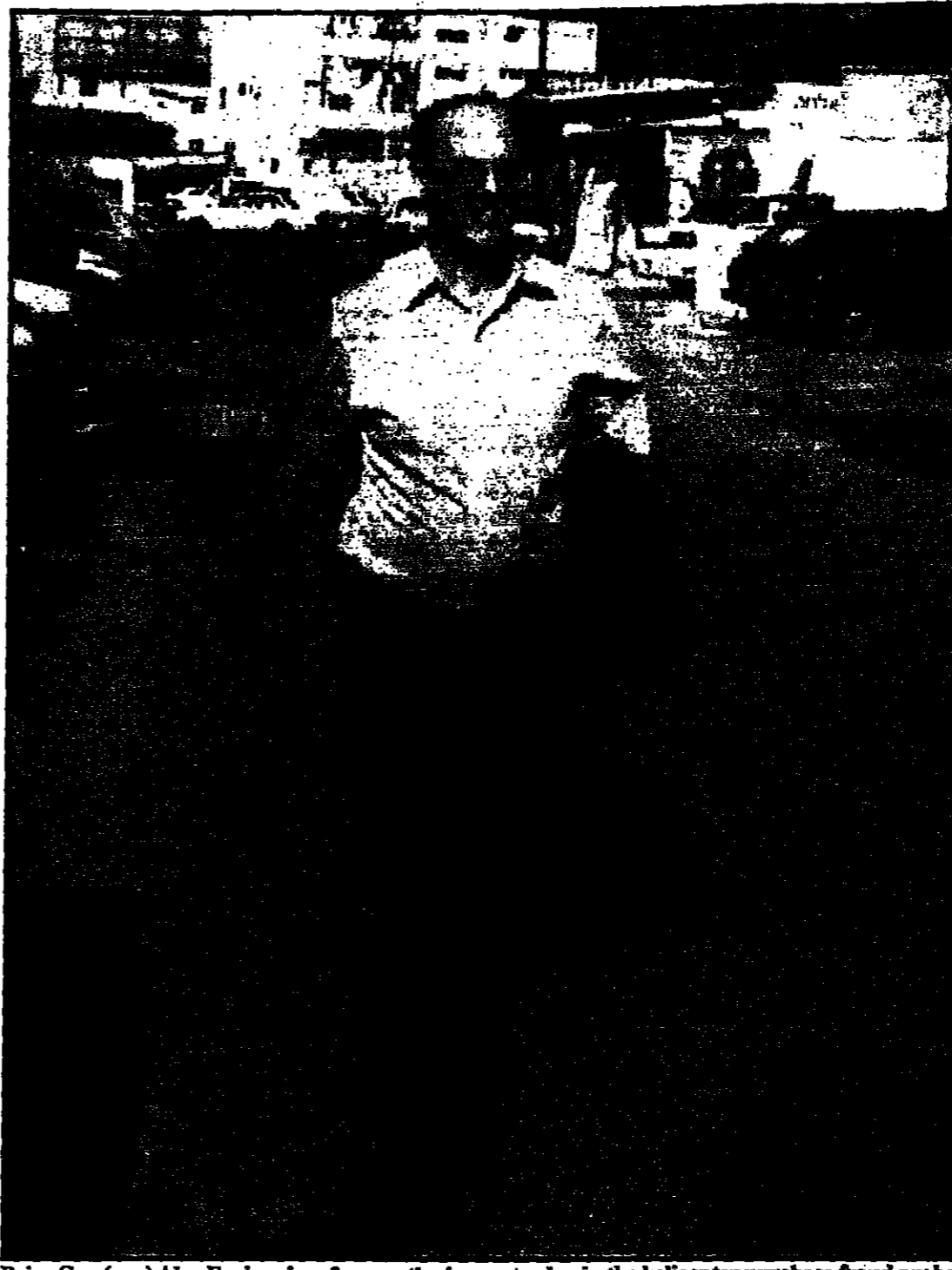
Cooperation between the Air

Force and Navy lets the chopper be maintained at sea. Its missions are prescribed by the Navy.

The Panther is based on the Dolphin's original design from the mid-1970s. The original French version was received with so much success that the US Coast Guard has based its chopper force on the helicopter.

Because of US military procurement conditions, 50 percent of the chopper has to be made of American components so its avionics and turbo engines were replaced with US systems.

The Americans purchased 98 of the Dolphins. The turbo engines have reportedly caused the Americans a number of problems and are said to be short lived and difficult to maintain.



Brig-Gen (res.) Alex Eyal arrives for questioning yesterday in the helicopter purchase fraud probe at National Fraud Squad headquarters in Jaffa. (Dan Ossendyev)

WEATHER

| Area | Temp | Wind | Clouds |
|------------|-------|-------|---------------|
| Tel Aviv | 18-24 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Jerusalem | 13-24 | 5-10 | partly cloudy |
| Beer Sheva | 18-27 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Dead Sea | 18-27 | 5-10 | partly cloudy |
| East | 16-23 | 5-10 | partly cloudy |

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Slight rise in temperatures.
Shabbat: No change.

AROUND THE WORLD

| City | Low | High | Wind | Clouds |
|------------|-----|------|-------|---------------|
| Amsterdam | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| London | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Paris | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Rome | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Madrid | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Barcelona | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Frankfurt | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Berlin | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Munich | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Zurich | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Geneva | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Brussels | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Stockholm | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Copenhagen | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Helsinki | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Oslo | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Stockholm | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Copenhagen | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Helsinki | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |
| Oslo | 10 | 14 | 10-15 | partly cloudy |

US pledges to maintain support of Israel in UN

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

THE United States ambassador to the UN pledged Washington's continuing support of Israel in the Security Council, but observers said the American campaign against the UN secretary-general had made Israel's position more difficult.

"The recent controversy surrounding the [Hasmoncean] tunnel and the related violence was a setback" in Israel getting balanced treatment from the UN, said Madeleine Albright, the US ambassador, yesterday.

"We are trying to overcome that. And we will work hard to prevent the UN, especially the Security Council, from doing or saying anything that would disrupt the peace process or harm Israeli interests," said Albright, who was mentioned as a replacement for retiring Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"Needless to say, our job will be easier if there is steady, substantive progress in negotiations" on

the peace process, she said at a conference of the Anti-Defamation League.

At the end of September, Israel was roundly criticized at the UN for opening the tunnel exit, which many states assailed as a "provocation." Dozens of Israelis and Palestinians died in the violence that followed.

The US, meanwhile, has been actively campaigning to deny the Egyptian diplomat, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, a second term as UN secretary-general. A vote is expected by the end of UN's current term, in December.

That campaign, which has been called a "gross diplomatic blunder" by US Senator Paul Simon, is seen by some as backfiring on Israeli interests.

"All the United States had to do was veto him [in the Security Council]. By making a public campaign against Boutros-Ghali,

the US alienated Egyptians and other moderates," said Harris Schoenberg, director of UN affairs of B'nai B'rith. "This makes it harder to work against Arab belligerency" at the UN.

Israel has yet to take a position on Boutros-Ghali's tenure. "We make a distinction between this [UN] issue and our attitude toward the person," said David Peleg, Israel's charge d'affaires at the UN. "We respect him for his role in the [Camp David] peace process," but that is separate from Israel's position on the secretary-general's second term.

Also appearing at yesterday's conference was Israel's ambassador to the US, Eliahu Ben-Elissar. Speaking two days after the reelection of President Bill Clinton, he said Israel had not received assurances that Clinton would not exert pressure on Israel to make concessions. But, he said, such assurances are not necessary, nor would Israel succumb to pressure.

Israeli Arabs to protest today against new land tax

DAVID RUDGE

ISRAELI Arabs are to stage a mass demonstration outside the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem today to press for the abolition of a new land tax.

Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the forum of Arab Council Heads, said the property tax on land is placing an unfair burden on Arab owners.

"This law is unjust and is aimed at taking the land away from Arabs. The tax itself is exaggerated and totally unrealistic," said Suleiman, head of Mash'had local council near Nazareth.

"We asked the government in the past to amend this law and make the land exempt from tax, but to no avail. For these reasons we have decided to stage a mass demonstration in Jerusalem to press for the abolition of this land tax law," he said.

Arab-owned land "is mainly agricultural land which nobody is trying to use for business purposes but which under this law will be subject to heavy tax. What will happen is that the owners will have to sell off their land in order to pay the taxes," said Suleiman.

"This is totally unfair. There is no justification for somebody having to pay tax on land the income from which is minimal or non-existent," he said.

Meanwhile, the forum is to meet next week to decide on calls for a general strike of the Arab sector to protest the financial plight of Arab councils.

Suleiman said more than 30 of the 53 municipalities and local

councils in the Arab sector had been unable to pay employees' salaries for several months because of crippling debts.

"Repeated calls to deal with this situation urgently and even to discuss the matter with the prime minister have proved in vain," said Suleiman.

"Given the circumstances, I think there will be an overwhelming vote in favor of calling a one-day general strike of the entire Arab sector and taking other measures to press for government assistance," he added.

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Court bars clerk's strike

THE National Labor Court issued a restraining order yesterday barring municipal and local authorities clerks from striking beginning on Sunday. The court noted that the Clerks Union is not entitled to declare a labor dispute and strike since its collective agreement states there will be no strike action and that disputes will instead be settled through negotiations.

"There is no doubt that a strike of 80,000 workers in the local authorities and big cities will cause damage to the public," the court said. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Foreign worker murdered in Yavne
A foreign worker was found murdered yesterday in Yavne near a garbage bin. When police went to the scene, they found a trail of blood leading to a nearby apartment. Initially, the owner refused to open the door. When he did, police found bloodstains in the apartment and signs that the owner had been trying to remove them. The owner was arrested immediately on suspicion of murder. *Itim*

Boy falls to his death
A boy hiking with a group south of Ein Gedi was killed yesterday when he lost his balance and fell down a ravine. An Ein Gedi rescue unit and an air force helicopter came to the scene, and a doctor declared the boy dead. Later that day, a youth who had broken her leg while hiking north of Ein Gedi also had to be rescued. *Itim*

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